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OPINION METER

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, left, leads the prayer at the start of yesterday's luncheon meeting with 23 of 29 members of the Legislature in the Tapochao Room of Saipan World Resort in Susupe, to collaborate on ideas and plans to generate revenue for the cash-strapped CNMI including allowing hotels and golf courses to acquire the public lands they are currently leasing and establishing a "thriving" casino industry on Saipan.

Fitial: Let hotels, golf courses own land

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is proposing to allow existing hotels and golf courses to acquire through fee simple the public lands they are currently leasing from the CNMI government within 180 days after voters approve of such a move—a proposal that some lawmakers said is "bold" and needs careful consideration.

That initiative will allow, for example, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Coral Ocean Point Resort and Golf Course, LaoLao Bay Golf Resort, Rota Resort Golf Course, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Marianas Country Club and Golf Course, among other hotels and golf courses,

See LAND on Page 4

Fund OKs new Wilshire contract

» Asset liquidation, transition to CDARS stopped

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees has approved a new contract for its investment consultant, Wilshire Associates, with an expanded service but at a reduced price. From the previous service fee of about $195,000 a year, Wilshire will now be paid at a lower $165,000.

The decision to approve the contract was reached yesterday after board members received the final draft of the agreement from Wilshire agreeing to the contract's provisions.

Wilshire was first hired in October 2010 to replace Merrill Lynch as the agency's investment adviser. The enactment of the Beneficiaries Derivative Act in September prompted it to terminate its contract as the law increased its exposure to potential liability. That law has since been repealed, persuading Wilshire to return.

Board chair Sixto K. Igisomar told *Saipan Tribune* that they asked for a lower service fee because of the decline in the Fund's investment portfolio, currently valued at $256.7 million.

He described the new agreement as an open contract, subject for termination by either party. Wilshire's responsibility is expanded to cover the agency's defined

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Ex-convict's multiple cases conflict out all NMI lawyers

» Superior Court may fly a lawyer over from Guam to represent defendant

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An ex-convict's long list of pending and prior court cases may prompt the Superior Court to bring in an attorney from Guam because all his cases have conflicted out all on-island attorneys.

Calistro A. Crisostimo, 28, appeared for his preliminary hearing yesterday afternoon, but the hearing did not push through because he has not been appointed a lawyer.

"Mr. Crisostimo, you have done the impossible!" associate judge Joseph N. Camacho said, adding that this is his first time to encounter a case where a defendant has conflicted out all lawyers in the Commonwealth.

Assistant attorney general Russell Lorfing agreed, saying, "I've never seen anything like this."

Reading from a list, Camacho cited the suspect's six criminal cases, three temporary restraining orders, three juve-

See EX-CONVICT on Page 4

Local

Davis dismisses legislative leaders from his lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

John H. Davis Jr. yesterday removed Senate President Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) and House Speaker Eliceo D. Cabrera (R-Saipan) from his lawsuit that seeks to allow U.S. citizens who are not of NMI descent to vote on any issues relating to Article 12.

Davis, through counsel Jeanne H. Rayphand, filed the notice of dismissal against Manglona and Cabrera in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

In the one-sentence notice, Davis only stated that the two are being dismissed from the case pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

In a phone interview, Rayphand explained that they initially included Manglona and Cabrera in the lawsuit to give them a chance to say whatever they want about those laws, thinking that they have an interest in participating in the lawsuit.

Manglona and Cabrera had both filed a motion to dismiss them from the court action.

"Apparently they have no interest in participating so we just dismissed them. If they don't want to participate that's fine with us," the lawyer said.

Manglona and Cabrera, through counsels Antonette R. Villagomez and Joseph L. G. Taijeron Jr., filed on Tuesday the motion to dismiss the lawsuit or claims against them.

Manglona and Cabrera asserted that Article 12 is based not on blood quantum nor race but political status. The two also said that Davis lacks standing to bring the lawsuit.

Manglona and Cabrera argued that as CNMI legislators, they are immune from civil claims for actions taken in their official capacities, regardless of whether those claims seek monetary damages or prospective declaratory or injunctive relief.

With their dismissal, that leaves Commonwealth Election Commission chair Frances M. Sablan, CEC executive director Robert A. Guerrero, and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial as co-defendants in the lawsuit.

Davis, a vice principal at Marianas High School, wants the court to declare that Article 18 Section 5(c) of the CNMI Constitution violates the 14th and 15th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution and is invalid, null, and void.

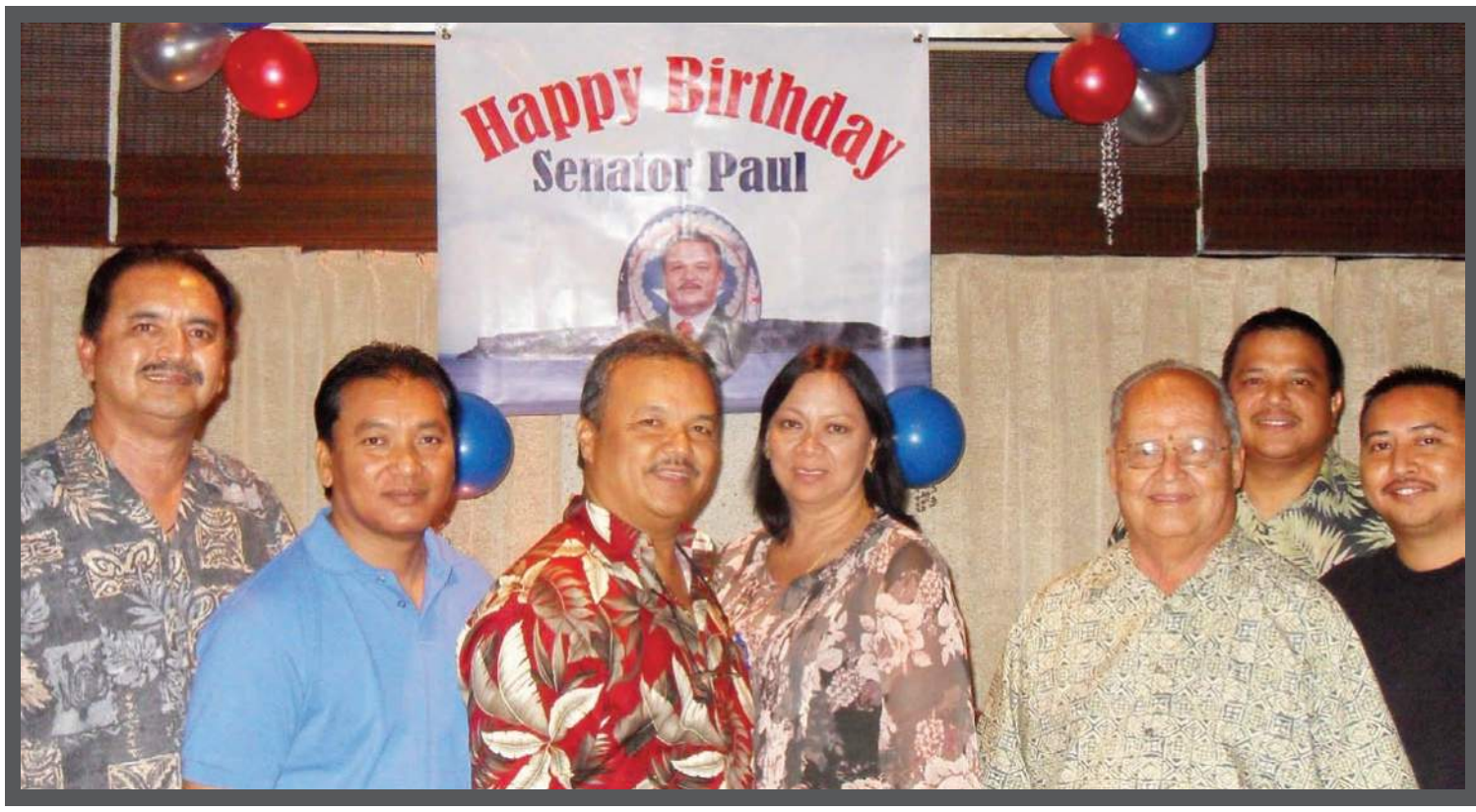
Article 12 limits landownership in the CNMI only to those of NMI descent. It is up for voters' review this November election.

Article 18 Section 5(c) states that "in the case of a proposed amendment to Article 12, the word 'voters' shall be limited to eligible voters under Article 7 who are also persons of Northern Marianas descent as described in Article 12 Section 4, and the term 'votes cast' as used in subsection 5(b) shall mean the votes cast by such voters."

Davis wants the court to bar the defendants from denying him and other U.S. citizens who are not of NMI descent the right to vote.

In Manglona's and Cabrera's motion to dismiss, Villagomez and Taijeron that that in 1999, the issue of whether to allow persons of NMI descent to vote on Article 12 was fairly presented to the entire electorate, regardless of race.

Villagomez and Taijeron said that Davis and all other non-NMDs were given the reasonable opportunity to voice their opinion at the open polls.



BIRTHDAY PARTY
Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), third from left, is flanked by his family and colleagues during his 54th birthday party at Aqua Resort Club in Achugao on Wednesday. The party was also aimed at raising funds for his re-election bid in November.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

2012 MMAC Committee gearing up for 10th anniversary

The Marianas March Against Cancer will be marking its 10th anniversary this year and the 2012 organizing committee has begun preparations for what promises to be one of the largest cancer fundraising events in Northern Marianas history.

Previously known as the American Cancer Society Relay For Life, the annual cancer fundraising event was renamed the Marianas March Against Cancer in 2002 in order to ensure all funds raised were spent entirely in the CNMI. Headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, the American Cancer Society is the largest voluntary health organization in the United States. All earnings generated at Relay For Life were donated to the American Cancer Society with no guarantee that any or all proceeds would be spent locally.

"A group of community volunteers decided that the CNMI needed more help, support and education to fight this disease and they chose to rename the event the Marianas March Against Cancer. That ensured that all proceeds raised under MMAC were spent in the CNMI," said 2012 overall committee chair Catherine Attao-Toves. "We raised a record amount last year and we hope to match or exceed that this year. With this being the 10th year anniversary of the MMAC, we are confident that the community will come out in full force in support of the battle against cancer."

The Marianas March Against Cancer is the largest fundraising activity and the signature fundraising event for the Commonwealth Cancer Association—a volunteer-led non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting cancer awareness and prevention, providing patient support services, and serving as the liaison and advocate for cancer issues in the CNMI. Thousands of people participate in the MMAC including teams representing families, businesses, non-profit organizations, schools, and government agencies. The event will feature the MMAC Shop—a booth distributing cancer information pamphlets and brochures. There will also be live entertainment, food, and drinks for sale as well as other family-friendly games and activities for the public to enjoy.

The 12-hour event will feature teams competing within certain categories. There are four team categories available: *Pulan* (Families), *Napu* (Schools), *Puti'un* (Businesses) and *Atdao* (Non-Profit/Government Agencies). "It's possible for there to be a combination of any two categories such as a school and a business, a school and a non-profit organization, etc. The registration fee will be determined by the category or combination of categories each team falls under," said Attao-Toves. Teams will be competing to win best tent, best baton, most money raised in each category, most spirit, and most laps.

The MMAC also allows the community to pay their respects to all those who have been directly affected by cancer. All cancer survivors and those currently undergoing cancer treatment are invited to the annual survivor dinner held in their honor. Each survivor will be treated to a complimentary dinner buffet and will be awarded a unique medallion and T-shirt commemorating their fight against cancer.

"This is a very important part of the MMAC. Every one of us knows someone who has been affected by cancer and the survivor ceremony is our chance to celebrate their perseverance and strength," said Attao-Toves.

In addition, a luminary ceremony will be held in honor or in memory of a loved one who has survived cancer, is currently undergoing treatment, or has lost the fight against this deadly affliction. Candles will be lit inside a white bag with each one bearing the name of someone who has been touched by cancer or someone who has lost the battle against this disease. Each luminary is only $5 each and can be purchased from any team or at the MMAC event itself.

"We are looking for more families, businesses, schools, non-profit organizations, and government agencies to participate as teams. We will hold our next team meeting on Thursday, Feb. 9, at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. We are inviting all interested members of the community to join this meeting where important information will be discussed," said Attao-Toves.

"We are also seeking the support of all businesses, individuals, and organizations who wish to support the 2012 MMAC by donating funds, services, or raffle items. We have a few sponsorship levels available including title sponsorship ($3,000+), major sponsorship ($1,000-$2,999) or standard sponsorship ($1-$999). We welcome all donations so please contact any committee member if there are any questions," said Attao-Toves.

The 2012 MMAC committee members include Attao-Toves (overall chairwoman); Manny Borja (overall vice-chairman); Dave Guerrero, Carleen Desebel and Atdao Rosario (accounting and registration); L.J. Castro (entertainment); Kim Concepcion-Pritchard and Diana Benavente (luminary); Meagan Cruz (MMAC Shop); Christopher A. Concepcion (public relations); Vinycia Seman and Gloriana Monkeya-Teuira (logistics); Rachel Roque (sponsorship); Nora Sablan (survivors); Reina Camacho (team recruitment and incentive prizes); Ana Salas and Janine Nogis (t-shirts and trophies); David Rosario (senior adviser).

The 2012 MMAC will be held on April 27-28 from 6pm to 6am at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao. For more information contact Attao-Toves at 285-1828 or email attaoc@yahoo.com or Manny Borja at 989-1987 or email emanuel.borja@gmail.com. You may also visit www.ccamarianas.org. ***(MMAC)***

Commerce has new deputy chief, statistics director

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Central Statistics Division director Ivan Blanco is now the deputy secretary of the Department of Commerce, replacing Sixto Igisomar who was confirmed by the Senate and sworn in by the governor as Commerce secretary on Wednesday.

Blanco

Replacing Blanco as CSD director is Perry Inos Jr. effective Monday, Jan. 30.

Blanco said yesterday that the Central Statistics Division staff has been hardworking and efficient, making it easy for any transition.

"I am still around so I will be able to help the division in any way I can," said Blanco, as he called on his former staff and colleagues to extend their support to the new CSD director.

Inos

He said the government's prevailing wage survey is being prioritized, so other reports such as the consumer price index report has been delayed. He said they expect the CPI report to be released in March.

Another recent change at Commerce is the creation of a temporary, federally funded unit called the Rate Review for Obamacare, headed by John Blanco.

Ivan Blanco said this unit will, among other things, review the insurance rate increases that insurance firms would implement under President Obama's health care reform.

5.5-magnitude quake occurs near Farallon de Pajaros

A 5.5-magnitude earthquake occurred near Farallon de Pajaros in the Northern Mariana Islands yesterday morning, but there were no reports of it being felt on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota because of its distance.

The Emergency Management Office did not issue a notice to the public about the earthquake. There was also no notice of a tsunami threat.

According to the U.S. Geological Service, the temblor occurred at 8:04am (Saipan time) at a depth of 313.6 kilometers.

The epicenter was about 151 miles west northwest of Farallon de Pajaros, 481 miles north northwest of Saipan, and 236 miles south southeast of the Iwo Jima Vocano Islands in Japan.

On Thursday at 2:42pm, a 5.3-magnitude temblor at a depth of 117 kilometers happened near Rota and jolted the island as well as Saipan and Tinian. There were also no reports of injuries and damage to property in the CNMI.

Later that same day at 5:03pm, a 4.8-magnitude earthquake at a depth of 300.4 kilometers hit some 138 miles west northwest of Farallon de Pajaros, 472 miles north northwest of Saipan, and 246 miles south southeast of Iwo Jima Volcano Islands. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CAMPUS TOUR
Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services (NMC-CREES) director Ross Manglona (second from right) speaks with members of the House Committee on Education during a campus tour of the college. Members of both the House and Senate were present for the Joint Committee on Education Meeting with NMC held earlier this week. From left are Rep. Joseph M. Palacios, House Education Committee Chair Rep. Janet U. Maratita, Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Manglona, and CREES Aquaculture extension agent Michael Ogo.

NMC

Hillbroom suit vs Vietnam-based lawyer dismissed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court on Thursday dismissed for lack of personal jurisdiction the lawsuit filed by Junior Larry Hillbroom against his former lawyer, Barry J. Israel, who is now based in Vietnam.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted Israel's motion to dismiss the case and said the court will not decide on his other asserted defenses.

Manglona pointed out that Hillbroom's lawsuit was filed in 2010, nine years after Israel moved away from the CNMI and ceased meaningful contacts.

"To make Israel answer in the CNMI today for any and all actions that arose long ago when he maintained substantial activities here, regardless of whether those actions were related to the forum, would not comport with the notions of 'fair play and substantial justice' that underpin personal jurisdiction," said Manglona in her 11-page order.

The court, she said, lacks general jurisdiction over Israel.

Hillbroom is the son of the late business tycoon Larry Lee Hillblom. Israel was one of the lawyers who represented Hillbroom in the probate case. He wants the lawsuit either dismissed or transferred to Guam.

Hillbroom is suing Israel for allegedly conspiring to inflate the attorney's contingency fee when Hillblom's fortune was still undergoing probate proceedings. He also named Hillbroom's former trustee Keith A. Waibel as co-defendant.

Hillbroom, through counsel, asserted that he did not become aware that Israel and the other defendants were stealing money from him until an FBI agent revealed the fraud to him at a meeting in San Francisco on Nov. 10, 2006.

Hillbroom first filed the lawsuit against Israel and Guam lawyer David J. Lujan in California, but the suit was also dismissed for lack of personal jurisdiction.

Israel moved the district court to dismiss the case against him for lack of personal jurisdiction, for lack of standing, for improper venue, and other grounds.

In granting the motion, Manglona said there is no evidence that Hillbroom ever resided in the CNMI.

Manglona said because Hillbroom has failed to sustain his burden on the second part of the effects test, he has failed to show purposeful direction, the first step of the specific-jurisdiction analysis.

Citing precedent, the judge said that having "failed at the first step, the jurisdictional inquiry ends and the case must be dismissed."

An evening of magical music features int'l concert pianist

The Friends of the Arts is proud to present Roman Rudnytsky, an internationally renowned concert pianist, to Saipan. He arrived on Jan. 22 and has been visiting CNMI schools, playing and discussing music with students. This is Rudnytsky's third trip to the CNMI; he was last here in 2006.

Rudnytsky travels at his own expense and donates his time to the community. He performed in Guam last week and will be off to Kwajalein, Majuro and elsewhere in the Pacific Islands.

FOA will be presenting "Rudnytsky in Concert: An Evening of Magical Music," at 6pm on Jan. 29 at Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret. The cost of the program is $15 for FOA members, $20 for non-member adults and $10 for students.

Tickets will be available at the door. For reservations email: fgibson@yahoo.com or call Frank Gibson at 287-7476.

About Roman Rudnytsky

Rudnytsky is an internationally active concert pianist of Ukrainian background whose frequent performances take him all over the world. He is one of the most traveled of all concert pianists. As of 2010, he has performed in about 95 countries.

Born in New York into a prominent Ukrainian musical family, he began the study of piano at age 4 and gave his first full recital at age 7. He is a graduate of the famous Juilliard School in New York and also did additional studies at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, Maryland and at masterclasses in Austria (the "Mozarteum") and Italy.

Rudnytsky is a prizewinner in 10 piano competitions, including such prestigious ones as the International Leventritt Competition (New York) and International J.S. Bach Competition (Washington) and, in Italy, the "F.Busoni" and "A. Casagrande" International Piano Competitions. He has made numerous recordings in Poland, Australia and the United States.

Rudnytsky has also appeared as a soloist with many orchestras around the world. He also conducts master classes and workshops for local piano students and teachers during the course of his travels.

Since 1972, Rudnytsky has been a member of the piano faculty of the Dana School of Music at Youngstown State University in Youngstown, Ohio (U.S.A.). He is a recipient of that institution's "Distinguished Professor Award" in recognition of his concert activities. ***(PR)***

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- Dan Dan Homestead: 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom house. Asking: $28,000.00.
- Mt. Tapochao House: Unfinished executive home in good condition. Has 4 large bedrooms, 3 ½ bathrooms and covered terraces. Asking: $135,000.00.

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NMC notes increase in full-time enrollment

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College disclosed yesterday that its enrollment for the spring 2012 semester increased by about 90 students to 1,284.

NMC president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart said this translates to an increase of about 7 percent over the same period last year.

"For the past few semesters, the college has continued to post strong enrollment numbers. Just five years ago, our enrollment was hovering at the 800 full-time equivalency level, and now we're at about 50 percent higher than that," she said in a statement to *Saipan Tribune.*

Full-time equivalency is calculated by taking the total number of credits students have registered for and dividing that by 12, the minimum number needed to be a full time student.

"While it is important that we look at the number of students served under our credit programs, it is equally important that we look at the numbers served in our non-credit programs like the Community Development Institute and the Adult Basic Education Program," said Hart.

Last year, NMC served more than 20,000 individuals in these non-credit programs, she said.

Hart emphasized the vital role of the college. "There is no mistaking the that the college plays a central role in educating and training tens of thousands of individuals each year, and this has been accomplished through our academic programs and other community programs that focus on training and development."

According to Hart, NMC is also refocusing its recruitment efforts on adult students who have delayed enrollment for one reason or another.

UOG SCHOLARSHIP UOG

The Palau Women's Club officially awarded their annual University of Guam scholarship on Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2012. Ronalyne Agpaoa, an accounting student in UOG's School of Business and Public Administration, received the $1,000 scholarship to help cover the cost of attending the University of Guam. From left to right: Margie Bautista, treasurer; Teresa Rivera, vice president; Dr. Julie Ulloa-Heath, dean of Enrollment Management and Student Services-UOG; Ronalyne Agpaoa, scholarship recipient; Frances R. Ballendorf, president; Esther C. Espangel, Scholarship Committee chairperson; Keiko Blailes, member; Georgina Oderiong, assistant treasurer. The Palau Women's Club was chartered on Guam in 1978. They award scholarships annually to students attending the University of Guam.

LAND

From Page 1

to acquire the lands they are leasing fee simple.

While no lawmaker objected to the proposal, some said the Legislature has to really weigh the initiative to amend Article 11 of the NMI Constitution before presenting it to voters in the Nov. 6 elections.

Fitial shared his proposal with 23 lawmakers yesterday at a closed-door luncheon meeting at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe, paid for by the governor at a cost of at least $435 or $15 for at least 29 individuals.

"This is only a one-time [program]. My idea is to allow the existing lessees to acquire the property or fee simple within 180 days [after voters' ratification]. That's my proposal so that we can realize the cash…We're talking big money if all of the properties that are now being leased by hotels and golf courses [are bought]," Fitial said in an interview after the meeting.

But the governor said it will be up to the Legislature if it wants to present such an initiative to voters.

Eight joint House and Senate committees were formed yesterday to look into the eight key issues that will grow the local economy, and one of those committees will focus on this so-called fee simple initiative.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said the governor's proposal could have been an expanded form of his initiative that the Senate passed in December.

Manglona's initiative transfers the disposition and management decision of public land golf course leases to the cash-strapped NMI Retirement Fund. It allows the Fund to lease these public land golf courses for up to 99 years—instead of only up to 55 years—for $50 million or for an amount determined by two certified independent appraisals, whichever is greater.

The Senate president said he supports having public hearings on the governor's proposal. The earlier the public is educated about the matter, the better, he added.

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) said the governor's proposal is a "bold move," which he and others say will immediately boost the economy.

"It's definitely a new way of thinking. It may not be acceptable to most, but the intent is to quickly infuse revenue, new money to stimulate the economy," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune.*

Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) said at this point, it's not about opposing or supporting the governor's proposal but "about looking into its merits, its impacts."

"No one's objecting to anything because they have yet to really study the proposal," he said.

Torres said the luncheon meeting gave lawmakers and the governor a chance to once again share ideas on how to save the economy, which now relies solely on tourism.

"We all have to work together. Having a meeting like this is good, but what's more important is that we follow up and actually work on the things discussed," he said.

The governor's proposal covers public land leases on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), who was not in the meeting, and other lawmakers continue to push for the legalization of casino operations on Saipan to infuse millions of dollars into the economy.

The CNMI government has seen dramatic decrease in revenues after the budget peaked in 1997 at $247 million because of the Asian economic crisis, the demise of the garment industry, and the pullout of Japan Airlines. By fiscal year 2012, government budget is down to only $102 million and may remain at the same level in 2013.

Present and absent

Of the 29 members of the House and Senate, only 23 were present at the leadership meeting.

Accompanying Fitial were Attorney General Edward Buckingham, Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson, special assistant for administration Esther Fleming, press secretary Angel Demapan, and the governor's police escort.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos was not at the meeting. The press secretary said that Inos was in Guam for medical reasons.

In the Senate, two of nine senators couldn't make it to the meeting: Sen. Luis Crisostimo (Ind-Saipan) and Sen. Henry San Nicolas.

Four of 20 House members were also not there: Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan), and Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan). Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) came late.

The governor called for the joint meeting to share with lawmakers his economic ideas, including the establishment of a "thriving casino industry on Saipan."

The meeting came a little over a year since their much publicized full leadership meeting that produced at least one revenue-generating law—the tourism incentive program whose rules have yet to be finalized for ac-

House extends from 90 to 135 days time to fill govt vacancies

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives passed a bill that will give government agencies up to 135 days instead of only 90 days to fill job vacancies, before these unfilled posts are eliminated to help reduce the size of government.

By a vote of 17-0, the House passed Rep. Ralph Demapan's (Cov-Saipan) House Bill 17-261 on Thursday.

The bill, which now goes to the Senate, amends the fiscal year 2012 budget law or Public Law 17-55 to extend by 45 days the current 90-day limit.

That law eliminates all vacancies that are not filled within 90 days of the enactment of the budget law, with the exception of the Public School System, Northern Marianas College, and the Department of Public Safety. The intent is to cut government size.

But Demapan said there are many positions that are vital to government revenue-generating operations that must be filled, beyond the 90-day limit.

"While departments and agencies have been working diligently to fill the vacancies, the time frame to announce the positions, gather the eligibility list, interview qualified candidates, and select the most qualified candidate requires more time beyond the time limits set by Public Law 17-55," he said in his bill.

The House also adopted by a vote of 19-0 a resolution amending its Official Rules of Procedure to require that all bills and resolutions have clearly written titles, and to require the review for legal sufficiency on all initiatives, bills, resolutions, and floor amendments.

They also adopted a resolution recognizing Vito Kisa Calvo for designing the CNMI's original flag.

FUND

From Page 1

contribution plan.

The board also approved yesterday the decision to stop the liquidation of the Fund's assets and its transition to CDARS, or the certificate of deposit account registry service.

Fund administrator Richard Villagomez said that $105 million has already been transferred to CDARS while $145 million is still in mutual funds.

"We need to stop this process [liquidation and transition to CDARS] because there are costs involve in transitioning," said Villagomez yesterday.

Saipan Tribune learned that the money will be kept at both sources for the meantime until Wilshire is officially back onboard and could advise the board on its next action. Pursuant to law, the Fund cannot make any decisions on its investment without the advice of an expert.

The board also cancelled its advertisements for both investment consultant and actuarial consultant positions.

Villagomez said that Buck Consultants also sent its draft contract yesterday to the Fund, subject for board review and approval. Igisomar could not immediately confirm if there will also be some changes in the contract for the actuarial consultant post.

Besides the investment and actuarial consultants, Igisomar said the position of external auditors is also key to the Fund's resumption of normal operations. He said the advertisement for external auditor will continue until a qualified firm is chosen to do the agency's financial audit.

EX-CONVICT

From Page 1

nile cases, two family court cases, and 20 traffic cases.

Camacho said the court may have to consider hiring an attorney from Guam because all of Crisostimo's cases have conflicted out the on-island lawyers.

That means all lawyers in the CNMI have, at one point or another, represented Crisostimo, his co-defendants, victims, or witnesses. And that means they can no longer represent him due to conflict of interest.

The CNMI Bar Association has about 150 lawyers, including those from the government and off-island.

Attorney Richard Pierce is already representing Crisostimo in a pending criminal case. He can't take this new case because he will be representing a client at trial in a district court case.

Attorney Anthony G. Long is counsel for Crisostimo in an active revocation criminal case, but he is off-island.

Judge Camacho denied bail for Crisostimo yesterday and remanded him to the Department of Corrections.

Police arrested Crisostimo on Jan. 13 for his alleged involvement in a conspiracy to steal a vehicle and sell its parts.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Crisostimo with theft of vehicle, tampering with vehicle, conspiracy to commit theft, illegal possession of controlled substance, attempted bribery, theft, and three counts of criminal contempt.

The preliminary hearing was originally set for Jan. 26, but the suspect still had no appointed counsel as attorney Pierce apparently never received a notice of his appointment.

The preliminary hearing was continued to yesterday. The court, however, still could not find any on-island lawyer for the defendant.

Task force to spearhead revitalization efforts in CK

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council has created a task force that would begin revitalization efforts in Chalan Kanoa next month.

The Neighborhood Revitalization Task Force will be composed of regulatory agencies staff who will ensure that rules and regulations are followed even in the innermost parts of the village, said council chair Ramon B. Camacho.

Camacho made the announcement during the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Dandan Children's Park on Wednesday.

"We need to have this village revitalization thing in our community," said Camacho, who met with representatives of regulatory agencies that same day.

Camacho, in an interview, said the meeting held at the Department of Public Works conference room was attended by representatives from DPW, the Division of Environmental Quality, Zoning Office, and the Sanitation Office under the Commonwealth Health Center.

Camacho said task force members will be going house to house to educate the village residents about agency regulations and concerns in the area where the Leadership Memorial Courtyard is being built, and a traffic light system construction is in the offing.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Ramon B. Camacho gestures as he addressed the audience during the Dandan Children's Park ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday.

"We're not there to cite them. We want to go there and work with them on how to keep the area clean not just in their residence but also throughout the village. We're going to approach them in a friendly, professional way," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Camacho disclosed that they received "very positive" feedback from the regulatory agency representatives.

"It's a perfect combination because if we go there as one and the residents have any concerns, the regulatory agencies are there to answer," he said.

The council chair noted that while the task force will initially work in Chalan Kanoa, the efforts will be "carried over" to other villages just like how the Neighborhood Watch Task Force initiative spread throughout the community.

"You can see that once this thing develops, it's going to be a model for the other villages. I'm very excited."

A. Samoa exec convicted of witness tampering and obstruction of justice

WASHINGTON—Paul Solofa, the director of the school lunch program for the government of the U.S. Territory of American Samoa, was convicted yesterday in relation to his efforts to obstruct a federal grand jury and law enforcement investigation into a bribery scheme, according to assistant attorney general Lanny A. Breuer of the Justice Department's Criminal Division.

After a four-day trial, a federal jury in the District of Columbia found Solofa, 50, guilty of one count of witness tampering and one count of obstruction of justice.

According to evidence presented at trial, sometime in early 2008, federal authorities began investigating allegations of cash bribes and kickbacks paid by vendors to officials of the American Samoa government in connection with the government's purchase of school bus parts and services.

According to the trial evidence, Solofa met on April 3, 2009, with a school bus parts vendor who told Solofa that the FBI was interested in interviewing the vendor regarding the bus parts investigation. Solofa, in a recorded meeting, allegedly told the vendor, "They cannot do anything with cash. Nothing. They cannot do anything with cash. They cannot track you down on cash. Because even if you say you gave me cash I'll tell them 'no.' They cannot take your word on cash. Because that's hearsay. So you know, but the best thing for you to do is 'nope, I never give them any cash, I never'—because that will open up the whole operation. …You get what I am saying. All you do is just tell them 'no, yes, no, yes,' period."

In addition, according to the evidence presented at trial, Solofa met on April 14, 2009, with the same bus parts vendor, who told Solofa that a grand jury subpoena requiring production of specific documents and records, some of which related to Solofa and to the bus parts kickback scheme, would be issued shortly. After discussing how to respond, Solofa told the vendor that, as for documents he did not want to produce, " [t]he only way to do it with those copies is burn it. That way, they won't see it, and you won't worry that they might see it, you know. …Just burn it, and nobody has a copy."

Solofa faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a $250,000 fine on the witness tampering charge and 10 years in prison and a $250,000 fine on the obstruction of justice charge. Sentencing is scheduled for April 27, 2012.

This case is being prosecuted by principal deputy chief Raymond N. Hulser and trial attorney Daniel A. Petalas of the Criminal Division's Public Integrity Section. The case is being investigated by the FBI in Hawaii; the Office of the Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Education; and the Office of the Inspector General for the U.S. Department of the Interior. ***(FBI)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Bento lunch sale, garage sale at Kilili pavilion today

The MPU U12 select team is having a fundraiser: They will be selling bento lunch and will host a garage sale at the Kilili Beach Pavilion today, Jan. 28, 2012, from 8am to 12pm. ***(PR)***

FMI seeks volunteers for LauLau Road cleanup

Members of the Friends of the Marianas under the leadership of its president, Marites Castillo, have started the cleanup and beautification of Lower LauLau Road as part of the environmental cleanup being funded by a Mobil grant.

The cleanup will continue today, Jan. 28, 2012, starting at 9am. The public is invited to participate by driving down LauLau Road. Water and light refreshment will be provided.

"FMI is cutting back vegetation to the cliff line running along the road so residents and visitors alike will be able to view the cliff line rather the dry season vegetation. We will need help, though, as we clear the vegetation and trash toward the Bay so everyone can have a clear view of the ocean. Please help us out this Saturday at 9am at lower Lau Lau road," said Castillo.

This is the seventh year that Mobil has supported FMI's beautification projects. ***(FMI)***

CCA membership meeting on Tuesday

All clients, partners, donors, volunteers, and other friends of the Commonwealth Cancer Association are invited to CCA's Annual General Membership Meeting, slated for Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2012, at 6pm in the CCA conference room in Gualo Rai. The agenda will include reports from the president and treasurer, as well as opportunity for public comments.

CCA is currently accepting nominations for three board positions. Nominations may be submitted in advance or on the floor at the meeting. To submit a nomination, email cca@ccamarianas.org or call 682-0050. ***(PR)***

Air Force training on Farallon de Medinilla

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on the following dates and times:

Jan. 30 to Feb. 1, from 8am to 6pm
Feb. 2 to 3, from 5pm to 1am

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. ***(PR)***

United States Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COUNCIL on DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING

Laolao Bay Golf Resort Saipan, Caladium Hall
Tuesday, February 7, 2012
10:30am – 2:00pm

AGENDA

I. **CALL TO ORDER**
II. **ROLL CALL**
III. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – February 7, 2012 Agenda
IV. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES -** July 28, 2012 Minutes of Meeting
V. **REPORT**
a) Chairman
b) Executive Director
c) Fiscal Committee
d) State Plan Committee
VI. **NEW BUSINESS**
a) 2012 Regional Self Advocacy Summit (March 28 & 29, 2012)
b) FEMA Training
c) CNMI Service System Data Collection
VII. **OLD BUSINESS**
VIII. **MISCELLANEOUS**
IX. **NEXT MEETING**
X. **ADJOURNEMENT**

Note: *Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.*

In accordance to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council three (3) days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ John DLG. Demapan
Acting Chairman, CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative).

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

US food-stamp program shouldn't be political toy

Maybe it's an effective political tool to portray President Barack Obama as a spendthrift giving away his neighbors' valuables to lazy urchins.

But it's a callous and cynical technique that misrepresents the federal food stamp program, foments unnecessary resentment and offers no solutions that would reduce reliance on this vital safety net.

Republican presidential candidate Newt Gingrich's claim that "more people have been put on food stamps by Barack Obama than any president in American history" isn't quite accurate. But it evokes an image of big-government handouts to ne'er-do-wells that riles a segment of the voting public.

Gingrich and other Republicans have touched a nerve by tagging Obama as a president who'd rather sign people up for food stamps than put them to work. Jobs, after all, are what too many Americans need right now.

But mischaracterizing what's now called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program conveniently overlooks its long bipartisan support and its expansion under President George W. Bush.

A month-by-month analysis by USA Today showed that recipients increased by 14.7 million during the Bush years and 14.2 million so far under Obama.

Reasons for growth included the bad economy and state efforts to enroll more people in the program.

In the wake of the 2008 economic downturn, the 2009 stimulus package did increase maximum aid to families by $80; that's supposed to expire next year.

Although a suspension of the three-month cap on benefits for able-bodied jobless adults without children expired in 2010, more than 40 states have been allowed to keep providing aid because of high unemployment.

Texas received permission to keep assisting those adults through September in 27 high-unemployment counties.

As of Jan. 5, 46 million people in 22 million households had participated in SNAP, which is available to U.S. citizens and some legal residents, this fiscal year, the U.S. Agriculture Department reported. There are plenty of misconceptions about who's included in those numbers.

More than half the Texas beneficiaries are under 18, Texas HHSC said, and most of the households receiving SNAP are headed by single women with one or two children.

There's certainly a need to debate the optimal scope of government assistance programs and the best ways to foster independence while helping those who truly need it. But constructive debate won't occur when the goal is to win an election rather than solve problems—or when the flames of emotion are fueled by flawed information.

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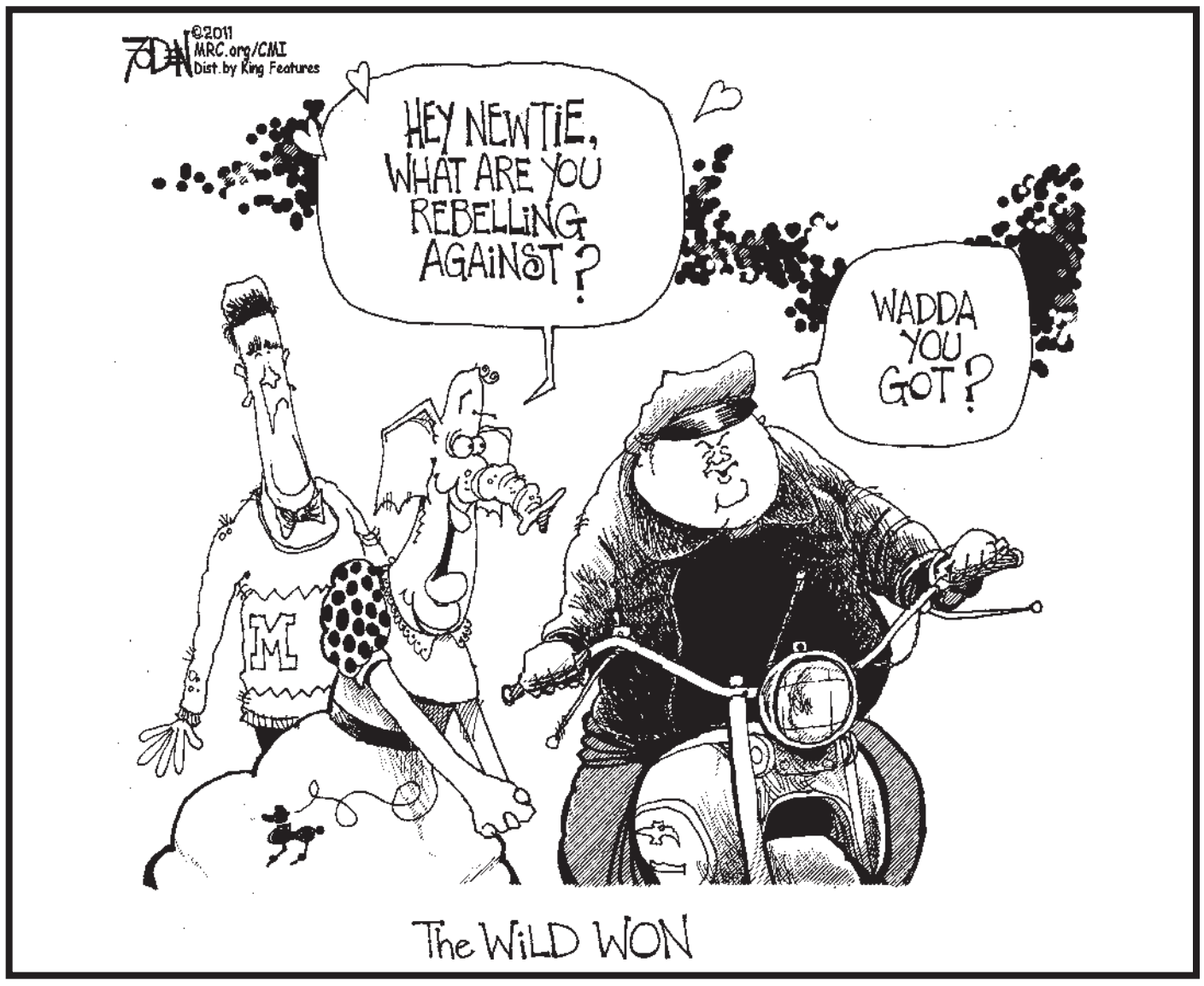


A year later in Egypt, the revolution continues

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer*. Readers may write to her at:* Philadelphia Inquirer*, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by e-mail at trubin@phillynews.com.*

One year ago, young Egyptians poured into Tahrir Square in a revolt whose outcome surprised them as much as the world.

It has become fashionable to say their rebellion failed, since its mostly secular organizers couldn't translate Internet skills into political power. When Egypt's first freely elected parliament in six decades held its opening session on Monday, Islamists had more than 70 percent of the seats, liberals less than 20 percent, and an alliance of young revolutionaries only 2.35 percent.

So it was the right moment to speak with Wael Ghonim, the young Egyptian Google executive who created and administered the Facebook page that sparked the Jan. 25 revolution. Ghonim, whom I interviewed by phone from Cairo, has just published a fascinating book called "Revolution 2.0: the Power of the People is Greater than the People in Power," which lays out details of how the rebels organized—complete with many of their email exchanges. There is an energy in the book and in Ghonim's words that makes one feel it is much too soon to assume the revolution is over, or to underestimate what the rebels achieved.

"I think the revolution is a process," says the intense, bearded 31-year-old with an MBA from the American University of Cairo. "Most of us were not politically mature, we didn't see the challenges. But if we look back a couple of years, and anyone had told me that (President Hosni) Mubarak would have stepped down, parliament would be dissolved, and 27 million would vote, I wouldn't have believed it.

"So many Egyptians have been freed from the psychological barrier of fear."

It is that new freedom—from fear—that Ghonim believes holds the key to Egypt's future. His presumption—as yet unproven—is that an aroused public will hold its Islamist government, and its military, to account.

Ghonim's book describes how he, and his Internet colleagues broke their own fear barriers. As an educated, tech-savvy Egyptian, he chafed at the lack of political alternatives to Mubarak. His first move was to anonymously create what later became the official Facebook page for Nobel laureate Mohammed ElBaradei, who galvanized young people by challenging the Mubarak regime in 2010.

As his courage grew, Ghonim felt impelled to act when he saw a grisly online photo of a young man beaten to death by police in Alexandria. He set up a Facebook page called Kullena Khalid Said (We are all Khalid Said), which later became a rallying cry for the Jan. 25 rally, originally called to protest police brutality. The book describes how Ghonim, and fellow Internet buffs gradually shed their fear of action, and worked up to organizing the Tahrir protest. It also details Ghonim's terrifying experiences when he was arrested and interrogated.

I asked Ghonim whether he fears an Islamist government will install a religious autocracy, perhaps in cahoots with the Egyptian military, which wants to retain its power. I also asked what the Internet rebels can do to protect the new democracy, especially since the public has tired of demonstrations.

Ghonim admits that some revolutions lead to new dictatorships. But he believes a public freed from fear will hold the Muslim Brotherhood (and the military) to account.

"I trust the Egyptian people, and I trust democracy," he says. "People voted for the Muslim Brothers because of the good social work they did in the past. Now they will have to deal with the economy and lack of jobs.

"In five years (at the next election) the people will judge them on what they achieved." If they don't produce, he says, the public will vote them out.

As for what the young rebels can do, he has helped form a political-pressure group called Our Egypt, whose leaders include "one liberal, one leftist, one Salafi, one religious leader and a filmmaker. Its goals: to lobby parliament on economic reforms and human rights protections; to hold the army accountable for its promise to leave politics; and to encourage more Egyptians to get politically involved.

Can his group reach out to the 80 percent of Egyptians who aren't Internet users? Can it counter the propaganda on state TV that still demonizes independent civic groups? Ghonim hopes so, even if its members have to canvas door to door.

"We need to get a critical mass of the public interested in politics," he says. "We have to give them a sense of ownership. Dictators don't want people to be involved. If there is accountability, it's very hard to push their heads down again."

As we say goodbye, I hear Ghonim arguing with the taxi driver in whose cab he's been riding. "The driver recognized me and didn't want me to pay," he says, "but I insisted. I told him 'there are no more idols or dictators here.'"

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

One day, two world views

By CARL LEUBSDORF
The Dallas Morning News

Carl P. Leubsdorf is the former Washington bureau chief of the Dallas Morning News. *Readers may write to him via email at: carl.p.leubsdorf@gmail.com.*

Sometimes, it seems, President Barack Obama and his Republican challengers operate in alternative universes. They look at the state of the nation and the world and see widely different conditions, one modestly optimistic, the other unremittingly negative.

That gap was evident Tuesday when Obama delivered a State of the Union speech displaying key themes from his re-election campaign, preceded and followed by a pair of leading Republicans.

"The state of our union is getting stronger," Obama declared, citing 22 months of private job growth after the sharp drop in the two years spanning the Bush presidency and his own, "before our policies were in full effect."

Earlier Tuesday, in an abandoned Tampa, Fla., factory, Republican presidential hopeful Mitt Romney delivered a "pre-buttal," accusing Obama of "an actual record of debt, decline and disappointment" and declaring his "agenda made these troubled times last longer."

In Tuesday night's official Republican response, Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels said Obama was elected to fix the nation's economic and fiscal problems, adding, "he cannot claim that the last three years have made things anything but worse."

With the truth probably somewhere in between, Americans will have to decide in November's election which portrayal they accept.

Just as the president and the Republicans disagreed in their general assessments, they also disagreed on the details, notably on increasing taxes on the wealthiest Americans.

Obama, who has repeatedly cited the tax issue as the way to achieve greater fairness in paying for government programs, proposed a form of what he termed "the Buffett rule," based on billionaire Omaha financier Warren Buffett's disclosure that his secretary paid a higher tax rate than he did.

With the secretary seated near first lady Michelle Obama in the House gallery, Obama said anyone making $1 million a year should not pay less than 30 percent in taxes and those earning more than $1 million a year should not get special tax subsidies or deductions.

One who would be directly affected by Obama's proposal is Romney, who could become the poster child for tax inequality after disclosing Tuesday that he paid less than 15 percent of his $42.6 million 2010-11 income in taxes because his income was mostly from dividends, interest and capital gains, all of which pay lower rates.

Obama challenged the Republican critics who accuse him of "class warfare" because of his tax proposals, declaring that most Americans would say "asking a billionaire to pay at least as much as his secretary in taxes" is common sense.

"We don't begrudge financial success in this country," he added. "We admire it. When Americans talk about folks like me paying my fair share of taxes, it's not because they envy the rich. It's because they understand that, when I get a tax break I don't need and the country can't afford, it either adds to the deficit or somebody else has to make up the difference."

After comments such as that in the Obama speech, Daniels sounded a bit off-key when he referred to "the president's constant disparagement of people in business," although he acknowledged that "everyone should contribute to our national recovery, including of course the most affluent among us."

But Daniels, in effect, supported congressional Republicans' desire to maintain the Bush tax cuts for all, including the wealthy, by calling it "dumb … to raise rates in a broke, grossly complex tax system. … The better course is to stop sending the wealthy benefits they do not need and stop sending them so many tax preferences that distort our economy and do little or nothing to foster growth."

Obama's tax comments drew only modest response on a night when Democrats predictably showed greater enthusiasm than Republicans for an agenda likely to face tough going in the gridlocked Congress. Much of the applause for the overlong speech came during his laundry list of rather modest proposals, including tax relief for small businesses, increased development of all forms of energy, and legislation to encourage refinancing of home mortgages at the current low rates.

While Romney and Daniels ignored foreign policy in their remarks Tuesday, Obama played it as one of his strongest political cards, opening and closing his speech by hailing the nation's armed forces for ending the Iraq war and killing Osama bin Laden. And he derided repeated claims by GOP candidates that U.S. influence abroad has declined, declaring that "anyone who tells you that … doesn't know what they're talking about."

Friends, Romans, voters

By PHILIP FREEMAN
Los Angeles Times

Philip Freeman is a professor of classics at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, and the author of How to Win an Election: An Ancient Guide for Modern Politicians. *He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

A political system in gridlock, conservatives and progressives at each others' throats, military threats looming in the Middle East: Welcome to the last days of the Roman Republic.

In 64 BC, Marcus Cicero, an idealistic outsider and the greatest orator ancient Rome produced, was running for consul—the highest office in the land—in a desperate bid to restore sanity to a corrupt and broken political system. It was a bitter contest to lead the most powerful government on earth, with accusations of incompetence, inconsistency and sexual misdeeds filling the air. Marcus wanted more than anything to save the republic from ruin, but he was hampered by his lowly birth and political naiveté. To help his brother, the more worldly and pragmatic Quintus Cicero wrote a no-nonsense guide for winning elections that rings as true today as it did 2,000 years ago.

Quintus was in many ways the first political consultant, and his little-known book remains a mostly undiscovered treasure. For centuries his concise guide has been read only by Latin scholars, but it deserves a much wider audience. Some of Quintus' advice is as follows:

Promise everything to everybody. Except in the most extreme cases, candidates should say whatever the particular crowd of the day wants to hear. Tell conservatives you have always supported traditional values. Tell progressives you have consistently been on their side. The current crop of Republican candidates, especially Mitt Romney, knows this lesson well. In states such as Iowa and South Carolina, you must tailor your message to social conservatives. In New Hampshire and Florida, emphasize fiscal responsibility. But what do you do after the election and voters expect you to follow through on your promises? Quintus has an answer for that too—explain to all sides that circumstances beyond your control have intervened.

Build a wide base of support. Quintus Cicero urges his brother as an outsider in the political game to win over the various special-interest groups, local organizations and rural populations ignored by other candidates. He also stresses the importance of harnessing the energy and enthusiasm of young people, as Ron Paul has done effectively in the primaries.

Don't leave town. In the days of the Cicero brothers, this meant sticking close to Rome, the center of all political activity. For modern politicians, it means being on the ground pressing the flesh wherever the key voters are at the moment. There is no such thing as a day off for a serious candidate. Quintus would have told Newt Gingrich to take his wife on a cruise to the Greek isles after the election.

Know the weaknesses of your opponents—and exploit them. Quintus says every candidate should do an honest inventory of both the vulnerabilities and strengths of their rivals. Today, political consultants call it opposition research. Winning candidates do their best to distract voters from any positive aspects their opponents possess by emphasizing the negatives (Quintus would have loved television ads). Rumors of corruption are prime fodder. Sexual scandals are even better. Remember Herman Cain?

Give people hope. No one has applied this advice better than President Obama in the last election. As bitter as political contests are, even the most cynical voters want to believe in someone. Quintus says that if you give people a sense that you can make their world better, they will become your most devoted followers—at least until after the election, when you will inevitably let them down. But by then it won't matter because you will have already won.

And who won the election of 64 BC? Marcus Cicero by a landslide.

Overdiagnosis is enough to ruin your mental health

By DANIEL AKST
Newsday

Daniel Akst, a columnist for Newsday, *is the author of* We Have Met the Enemy: Self-Control in an Age of Excess *from Penguin Press.*

To a hammer, everything looks like a nail. To a mental health professional, evidently, an awful lot looks like mental illness.

The latest scary story on this front came to us last week from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, which finds that each year 20 percent of American adults suffer some form of mental illness. If it's any consolation, things are even worse in Europe, where a similar survey, published in September, found 38 percent of the entire population suffering each year from mental or brain disorders.

Then again, a decade ago, a survey by the National Institute for Mental Health found that 46 percent of Americans met the criteria for at least one mental illness at some point in their lives.

Should we be worried about this? Of course we should—because what's crazy are these numbers, which call into question what is meant by "mental illness," and why anyone would think it so widespread. Then again, it's hardly surprising that the latest U.S. survey found a lot of mental illness, given the questions it contained.

For instance, it asks that you pick "one month in the past 12" when you were "the most depressed, anxious or emotionally stressed." During that month, it wants to know, "how often did you feel nervous?" Other questions include: "During the past 30 days, how often did you feel restless or fidgety?" and "How often did you feel that everything was an effort?"

The real problem is that too many people have too great an interest in medicalizing normal life—in turning sadness into depression, or shyness into social anxiety disorder. For drug companies and providers of mental health services, this can be quite profitable.

The NSDUH survey found that prescription drugs were the most commonly used "mental health service" in 2010 and were given to 26.5 million adults—a remarkable one of every nine.

Dr. Marcia Angell, a former editor-in-chief of the New England Journal of Medicine, is skeptical of all this medication. She writes: "The tally of those who are so disabled by mental disorders that they qualify for Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability Insurance increased nearly two and a half times between 1987 and 2007—from one in 184 Americans to one in seventy-six. For children, the rise is even more startling—a thirty-five-fold increase."

None of this is to minimize the terrible problems that some people suffer with actual, indisputable mental illness. At least one expert said the NSDUH survey is probably right that 5 percent of Americans suffer from a mental disorder so severe it disrupts their lives. Depression can certainly do that.

The difficulty is that mental illness isn't like influenza or cancer. The latter two can be diagnosed definitively, but mental illness is more in the eye of the beholder. In the past, for example, homosexuality was considered a mental illness; now, in New York at least, gay people can marry one another—the idea that they're "sick" has become a fringe notion.

Nowadays, mental illness has a kind of rule book in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, published by the American Psychiatric Association. The current edition has ballooned to describe three times the number of disorders enshrined in the first version, published in 1952. The next edition, due in 2013, is so controversial it's being prepared in secret.But already we know that five of the 10 "personality disorders" in the current edition are being dropped, including narcissistic personality disorder—a diagnosis that, fortunately, will remain in the DSM until after the presidential election. We'll no doubt need it.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered light showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

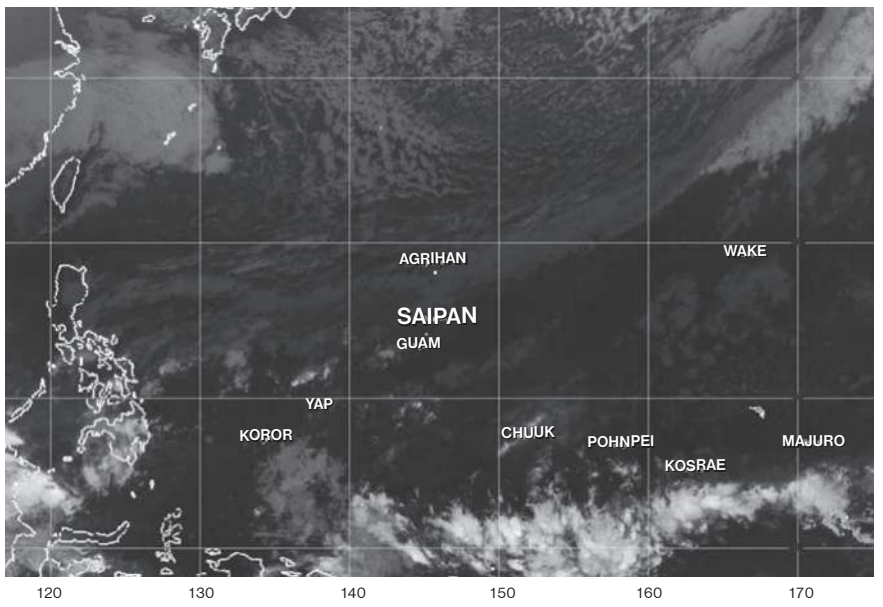
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲82	▼75
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼79
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼79
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼64
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲31	▼10
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼60
Honolulu	Sunny	▲79	▼70
London	Partly Cloudy	▲42	▼36
Los Angeles	Windy	▲77	▼45
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85	▼75
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲92	▼68
Miami	Thundershowers	▲81	▼64
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲49	▼32
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲44	▼35
Paris	Showers	▲41	▼35
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲40	▼27
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲58	▼39
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲50	▼44
San Francisco	Sunny	▲64	▼43
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲31	▼15
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲43	▼31
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲57	▼34

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N165E to 19N153E then continues as a shear line to just north of Saipan at 16N146E to beyond 130E at 12N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found near and up to 250 miles northwest of this boundary. A weak trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers south of Wake Island between 15N and 19N from 160E to 169E. Trade-wind convergence is producing a band of cloudiness. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across southern Micronesia from south of Majuro and Kosrae to south of Yap within 100 miles of a line from 5N180 to 4N167E to 1N158E to 1N150E to 1n142E to 3N139E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:44 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
11:03 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
5:42 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
11:02 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:13 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:13 PM
Monday	6:47 AM	6:14 PM
Tuesday	6:46 AM	6:14 PM
Wednesday	6:46 AM	6:15 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:47 AM	10:22 PM
Sunday	10:25 AM	11:10 PM
Monday	11:03 AM	11:59 PM
Tuesday	11:44 AM	
Wednesday	12:27 PM	12:48 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05076/147	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:50pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:20am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Amen Church
Sunday : 10am, 1pm, 5pm Wednesday : 7pm Friday Prayer : 9pm Bible Study : 4pm (Tue) Music Practice : 5pm (Sat) Korean class: 3:30pm (Thu) Visitation : 10am(Fri, Sat) Outreach : 8am (First Sat) Tel. No. 285-2121, 256-2221 Email : oseyo@daum.net

Born Again Christian
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road,
Call 285-6081 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa
(east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service: 10 am at Seventh Day Adventist church on Quartermaster Rd.
Wednesday Service: 7 pm at Fina Sisu Housing FS#1
Contact Nick for more info: 287-1661

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)
Sunday worship 8:30am
Sunday evening 7:00pm
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm
San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel
Telephone: 789-7566

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church Koblerville
Sunday services:
Sunday school 9:00am
Morning worship 10:00am
Evening service 6:00pm
Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm

Chinese services
Sunday morning 10:00am
Sunday evening 7:00pm

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.
Telephone No: 285-4661/2

Thy Word Ministries Saipan
Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service
located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi

Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian
Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Victorious Christian Church
(Formerly God's Victorious Army)
Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service
Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship
Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup
Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service
Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting
Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice
Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting
Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan 28, 1999

No funds yet for EIC, governor says
Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday admitted that his administration has yet to identify funds to pay some $6 million in Earned Income Credit to taxpayers which have been held up since last year due lack of resources. The financially-troubled government owes taxpayers millions of dollars in EIC covering tax year 1997, but the governor assured the people that they will receive the credit once the money is available. "We are still identifying the funds," Tenorio said, as he promised that his administration "will comply with the law to pay the EIC to those who are entitled to receive it."

Prenatal care still unpopular in CNMI
Despite the importance of prenatal care in ensuring that babies are born healthy, the practice remains unpopular among many pregnant women in the Northern Marianas due to lack of proper education and high medical cost, according to Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez. He said the percentage of pregnant women who come to the Commonwealth Health Center and at various private clinics for prenatal care is still low. He did not provide exact figures though. "There are barriers that pregnant women face in this community that prevent them from coming in to seek prenatal care early and regularly. One is lack of information about the benefits of early prenatal care and medical problems that could be prevented when one receives such care," Villagomez said.

Jan 28, 2000

Law designates Marpi as new public cemetery
With 103 deaths recorded each year on the island, the government will open a new cemetery in Marpi in efforts to ease overcrowding in existing burial sites as well as to provide "ecologically suitable and aesthetically fitting final resting place," according to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio. Under the law he has signed, the site will encompass the lots surrounding the proposed Veterans Cemetery, with total land area equivalent to nearly 70,000 square meters. This will complement the three cemeteries—in Chalan Kanoa and Tanapag as well as Wireless Hill Public Cemetery in Capitol Hills—which are already full to capacity and pose an environmental hazard to underground water sources.

Rota mayor turns to FAA for airport expansion
Rota Mayor Benjamin Manglona is asking immediate assistance from the Federal Aviation Administration for the improvement and rehabilitation of the island's international airport runway and facilities. In a letter to U.S. Department of Transportation Acting Manager for Airports District Office Daniel Matsumoto, Mr. Manglona stressed the need to improve and upgrade runway and terminal facilities of the Rota International Airport. "The island of Rota is now ready to embark into a major tourist destination. However, the impediment of our success is because of the port and desperate condition of our airport runway and facilities," he told Mr. Matsumoto.

Jan 28, 2002

CJPA has $500K in US grants
More than half-a-million dollars in federal grant funds are now available for application by agencies that are directly involved in the rehabilitation of crime victims, juvenile delinquents and drug users. The Criminal Justice Planning Agency disclosed that federal funds amo unting to $562,810 are now available for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Challenge Activity E and the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment. The CJPA is the Commonwealth's state administering agency for these programs but the grants will be awarded by the NMI Commonwealth Supervisory Council for the Improvement of the Criminal justice System through a sub-grant process.

DPW seeks changes on manpower law
Saying that the department is not yet ready—financially and skills-wise—to replace its foreign workers holding technical positions this year, acting Public Works Secretary Juan S. Reyes asked the Legislature to amend a law that seeks to replace nonresidents with local workers by September. Public Law 12-34, also known as the Comprehensive Manpower Training and Education Act, has set a deadline for the Department of Public Works to phase out nonresident workers holding professional positions by September 30, 2002, according to Reyes.

Maharlika

PH Consulate General may be shut down

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Filipino community in the CNMI could lose its Philippine Consulate General as the office is reportedly among the 12 embassies and consulates that the Department of Foreign Affairs plans to close down by the end of 2012 to "rationalize" the agency's resources.

Recent Philippine media reports state that Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert Del Rosario had disclosed at a Senate Finance Committee hearing a memorandum that he sent to President Benigno Aquino III outlining his recommendation to close the posts.

Although Del Rosario declined to identify the 12 posts pending the president's approval, *Malaya* columnist Rey O. Arcilla on Tuesday identified the posts as the consulates general in Barcelona, Frankfurt, Saipan, and Palau as well as embassies in Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Poland, Romania, and Sweden.

A "Rationalization of Foreign Service Posts" circular signed by Undersecretary Rafael Seguis directs 59 posts to justify their existence based on the three pillars of Philippine foreign policy: national security, economic security, and protection and promotion of the rights and welfare of Filipinos overseas.

Closing down the 12 posts by 2012 would translate to savings of about P100 million to P150 million ($2.3 million to $3.5 million) to the Philippine government, said Sen. Franklin Drilon, Senate Finance Committee chair.

According to Drilon, the Philippines may be retaining far too many of these foreign posts. At present, the Philippines has some 94 embassies and consulates worldwide.

'Always a possibility'

When asked for comments, Consul General on Saipan Medardo Macaraig said that his office has yet to receive any official announcement from DFA in Manila regarding the shutdown of the consulate.

"It's always a possibility," Macaraig told *Saipan Tribune*. "DFA has the authority to downsize, downgrade, or close foreign posts subject to our laws."

Macaraig confirmed submitting to the head office a report that justifies Saipan's need for a consulate.

Macaraig pointed out that the number of Filipinos in the CNMI has seen a huge drop since the implementation of Public Law 110-229 or the federalization law, most notably between the period after the final rule governing transitional workers in the Commonwealth was released in September up to the deadline for filing CW status for these workers.

Macaraig

Although there is no threshold in the number of Filipinos that must be present in order to maintain a post, Macaraig said that it is still a "major consideration" in policy and decision-making of the agency.

Macaraig estimates the number of Filipino workers in the CNMI at 8,000, which is also based on the estimate of the local government itself.

He noted, too, that the quantity of Filipinos who have sought assistance from the Consulate since the release of the final worker rule in September was "not like we expected. It was not an alarming rate," he said, adding that they have helped less than 100 Filipino workers.

Should the consulates on both Saipan and Palau close down, Macaraig said that Filipino workers in these two jurisdictions will have to go to the nearest consulate—in Agana, Guam—to avail of consular services.

Media reports state that the Filipino community in Palau has already started circulating a petition to retain the consulate there.

Macaraig assured the Filipino community in the CNMI that they will be immediately informed through a meeting once any decision on the matter is finalized.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

BON VOYAGE
Philippine Consulate General staff and members of the Filipino community flank labor attaché Carmelina Velasquez, standing sixth from left, at the Francisco C. Ada International Airport early Wednesday morning. Velasquez ended her two-year tour of duty and left for the Philippines on Jan. 25.

Ms. Pusong Pinoy draws 9 candidates so far

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Nine Young Filipino women have already signed up to compete in the Miss *Pusong Pinoy*, a beauty pageant slated for next month's Valentine festivities organized by the United Filipino Organization for the Filipino community on Saipan.

UFO secretary Annamae Adaza, who is also the event's program committee co-chair, said yesterday that this is the first time that we will be holding a Valentine beauty pageant and many teenagers and young ladies are excited to participate."

The event will be held at the Civic Center grounds in Susupe on Feb. 12. The beauty-and-brains competition is open to young females age 16 to 25 years old.

According to Adaza, some of their contestants were muses for basketball teams that joined previous UFO leagues.

"We would like to have about 10 to 12 candidates at most," added Adaza.

Adaza said pageant contenders will be competing in four different categories: sportswear, talent portion, formal wear, and question-and-answer.

She said the community can look forward to exciting production numbers from the candidates who will be handled by pageant coordinator Joel Vallega.

Meanwhile, Adaza is inviting food and non-food vendors who want to sell their products or merchandise at the event to sign up now. Slots for the 10x20 tent space are still available at $50 for food and $40 for non-food vendors. These slots will be raffled off to promote fairness and avoid favoritism.

"Please come and support *Pusong Pinoy.* It's going to be a really fun and exciting event for all Filipinos on island," she added.

For more information, call Bok Enano at 287-9756, Adaza at 483-5237 or Olive Yana at 285-7893.

Filipino workers urged to become OWWA members

» More workers expected to sign up following CW applications

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration is calling on Filipino workers in the CNMI, particularly those who have already been petitioned for a Commonwealth-only status by their employers, to renew or sign up for OWWA membership.

Welfare officer Julie Fabian on Friday stressed the importance of an OWWA membership, saying it is a form of insurance for Filipinos working overseas.

A minimal $25 membership contribution per year entitles an OWWA member to numerous benefits that include insurance and health care benefits, loan guarantee fund, education and training benefits, scholarship programs, family welfare assistance, and repatriation program.

"In the past, membership coverage encompasses the duration of a Filipino worker's contract. Since that no longer applies for OWWA members in the Commonwealth, the minimum coverage is for one year plus 60 days extension," Fabian told *Saipan Tribune*.

To become a member, Fabian said they require a Filipino worker to present a copy of their CW status or just the USCIS receipt acknowledging their application, the worker's passport, and the $25 fee.

Fabian, who has been in charge of the Philippine Overseas Labor Office and OWWA following labor representative Carmelina Velasquez's end of tour of duty on Wednesday, emphasized that the OWWA member remains covered for one year from the date of signing up.

The coverage, Fabian said, applies even if the OWWA member is on vacation in the Philippines and elsewhere or loses his or her job as long as it's within that one-year period.

Fabian disclosed that as of Jan. 27, they received a total of 109 OWWA membership applications in the CNMI this month.

"We're expecting that more Filipino workers will renew their membership in the coming weeks since most of them have already been applied for or already received a CW status," said Fabian.

Fabian urged Filipino workers in the CNMI to become an OWWA member for their own protection.

"It's an insurance for them, especially with the lingering uncertainties that they have even though they're employed," she added.

To become a member, visit the POLO – OWWA office at the ground floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe and bring the required documents. For more information, call 235-6992 or 235-3411.

US seeks military ties, not base, in Philippines

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States says it shares a common interest with the Philippines in protecting freedom of navigation in the South China Sea but is not seeking to re-establish a military base on the territory of its Southeast Asian treaty ally.

Despite impending budget cuts, the U.S. has signaled its intent to reinforce its presence in the Asia-Pacific, where there is some trepidation over China's rising military capabilities. In recent months it has announced plans to station troops in Australia and dock Navy ships in Singapore. That has fueled speculation the U.S. could seek to re-establish the permanent military presence it had in the Philippines until the early 1990s.

As senior diplomats and defense officials from the Philippines and the U.S. began two days of annual strategic talks in Washington on Thursday, both sides said the focus was on intensifying military cooperation in other ways, such as more joint exercises.

State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said the U.S. was interested in increasing training and cooperation in areas including search and rescue, freedom of navigation, countering terror and countering piracy.

"The idea that we are looking to establish U.S. bases or permanently station U.S. forces in the Philippines, or anywhere else in Southeast Asia, as part of a China containment strategy is patently false," said Cmdr. Leslie Hull-Ryde, a Defense Department spokeswoman.

The Philippines has turned to Washington for military hardware after accusing Chinese ships last year of repeatedly intruding into areas it claims in the South China Sea's disputed Spratly Islands and disrupting oil exploration in its territorial waters.

The U.S. says it has a national interest in peaceful resolution of the territorial conflicts and freedom of navigation in the South China Sea—where Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam and Taiwan also have claims. The waters are also home to some of the world's busiest shipping lanes.

Bigger role sought for US military in the Philippines

» Talks exclude new bases

By DJ YAP
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The United States is planning the expansion of its military presence in the Philippines, including the stationing of US Navy ships on a temporary basis and the conduct of more frequent joint exercises, in response to China's growing assertiveness in the Asia Pacific.

Philippine defense and military officials confirmed a *Washington Post* report on Thursday that the two countries were negotiating a deal that would increase cooperation between the two militaries, but stressed that the tension in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) over the disputed Spratly Islands was only part of the equation.

Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin said the terms of such an agreement would still be dictated by the Visiting Forces Agreement, which allows the periodic visits of U.S. troops for joint training and exercises.

"Well, first of all, it's true that the United States wants to expand its presence in the region, which is why they will put up a base in Australia and station ships in Singapore. But in the Philippines, [it involves] exercises that will still be in accordance with our Visiting Forces Agreement," Gazmin said.

On Thursday, the *Washington Post* reported that the United States, in talks with Philippine officials in Washington, was considering "operating Navy ships from the Philippines, deploying troops on a rotational basis and staging more frequent joint exercises," among other options.

'Political sensitivities'

"Under each scenario, U.S. forces would effectively be guests at existing foreign bases," the report said. The U.S. daily quoted an unnamed senior Philippine official as saying that the American side was aware of "political sensitivities" surrounding such an agreement.

The report further discounted the possibility of the United States attempting to establish a permanent base some 20 years after the Philippine government rejected a new bases treaty and evicted US forces from their naval base in Subic, Zambales province, the United States' biggest base in the Pacific.

Asked to comment, Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Raul Hernandez said he was still awaiting Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario's input on the issue.

There was no comment from Malacañang at press time.

Many factors

The negotiation for such a deal was prompted by many factors, and the tension in the West Philippine Sea with China over claims on the disputed Spratlys was only part of it, according to defense spokesperson Peter Paul Galvez.

"There are many factors, including our position on [maintaining] freedom of navigation and taking a multilateral approach and a rules-based approach in resolving the dispute in the West Philippine Sea," Galvez said.

The Spratlys, a chain of tiny islands and reefs believed to be rich in resources, lie near the Philippine province of Palawan.

The chain is claimed wholly or partly by the Philippines, China, Malaysia, Brunei, Vietnam and Taiwan.

In 2002, the claimants signed the Declaration of Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, which was to serve as a non-binding guideline on how to tackle the disputes. But tension has escalated in recent months, with the Philippines and China trading barbs on the latter's alleged incursions into the former's territory.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines said the discussions between the Philippines and the United States showed that "the partnership between our two countries' armed forces remains healthy, dynamic and beneficial."

No letup in remittances seen

By DORIS C. DUMLAO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Even a global slowdown may not likely curb the flow of money sent home by overseas Filipinos through I-Remit Inc., which expects to sustain a double-digit growth in remittance flows this 2012, over last year's $1.4 billion.

I-Remit also expects to get a bigger share of remittances as it rolls out an Internet-based remittance platform, "IDOL," initially in selected markets like Canada, catering to tech-savvy clients, I-Remit president Harris Jacildo said during a briefing Thursday.

After Canada, IDOL may be launched in Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Japan.

Such an Internet-based remittance system eliminates the need for clients to go to i-Remit branches to make a cash transfer.

"Trust will remain to be a premium in remittance companies. I-Remit is known for revolutionizing the way business is conducted in the industry by employing the latest in IT technology through an online platform, making the entire process faster and easier as well as greatly expanding its reach, without sacrificing the security of your transaction," Jacildo said.

The company is also looking for new markets to expand in, particularly in Saudi Arabia, which is the country's biggest remittance source in the Middle East, Jacildo said.

Filipinos unfazed by US aiming to bring back jobs

By TERESA CEROJANO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Call center operators in the Philippines who serve mostly U.S. clients on Wednesday shrugged off President Barack Obama's initiative to bring outsourced jobs back home.

The Business Processing Association of the Philippines that groups 250 companies said that outsourcing has allowed U.S. companies to survive the global financial crunch by lowering costs and to expand—thereby creating more jobs for Americans.

The Philippines is the world's top supplier of call center operators and is second to India in non-voice services such as accounting, engineering and medical billing. The U.S. accounts for 70 percent of the Philippines' business outsourcing market.

In his State of the Union address, Obama urged American businesses to bring jobs back to the U.S. Last week, he said he wants to eliminate tax breaks for companies that outsource.

Martin Crisostomo, BPAP spokesman, said outsourcing is inseparable from globalization and a business model that helps companies cut costs.

He said industry members are monitoring developments in the U.S. including proposed legislation in the U.S. Congress to discourage outsourcing jobs, but believes market forces will dictate the industry's future.

"At the end, it will not be politics but it will be the bottomline," Crisostomo said.

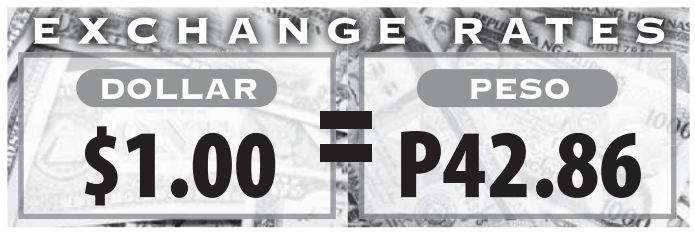
He pointed out that last quarter employment figures in the U.S. had improved even with outsourcing.

Still, Philippine companies will strengthen efforts to get clients other than Americans.

They include English-speaking countries like Britain, which now accounts for 10 percent of the business process outsourcing industry in the Philippines, and Australia, which accounts for 7 percent of the Philippine call-center market.

Marketing efforts for Philippine-based companies will also be increased in Western Europe, particularly for non-voice services like accounting, data encoding, transcription, engineering design, animation and game development.

Martin Conboy, editor of the Australian-based outsourcing news service "The Sauce" and director of FooBoo, an outsourcing company, said that the U.S. government's offer of incentives against offshoring "completely misses the point" and only masks "an inefficient labor market."



Philippines disarms villagers in killing probe

AP

In this Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2012, photo provided by the Zamboanga del Sur Provincial Police Office, local residents look at bodies of fishermen killed by gunmen after they were recovered in the municipality of San Pablo in Zamboanga del Sur province in southern Philippines.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police disarmed villagers on a southern island and will test their weapons to determine whether they were used to massacre 15 fishermen at sea in a suspected feud over lucrative fishing grounds, officials said Wednesday.

The lone survivor, who was seriously wounded, told investigators that the gunmen ordered the victims to line up on their boats like a firing squad before opening fire.

Another fisherman who escaped the shooting but returned hours later described the grisly scene of bloodied bodies and bullet-riddled boats sinking. "They were merciless," Jessie Boy Loquez said. "They fired at the heads."

Regional police officer Felicisimo Khu said only four bodies have been recovered from the sea and the other 11 are missing and presumed dead. Loquez said the four recovered bodies did not sink or float away because the wounded survivor had managed to tie up their legs.

Basilan provincial military commander Col. Ricardo Visaya said the initial investigation indicated that the killing was triggered by a conflict over turf rights in the fishing ground.

Law enforcement in the area is weak, and deadly feuds fueled by business and political rivalry are rampant. Businesses often pay protection money to armed groups and hire private guards.

Residents of Sibago Island and their confiscated guns will be tested to determine if they fired the weapons in Monday's attack on a group of rival fishermen, Khu said. He said no suspects have been named.

Visaya said the wounded survivor told investigators that the gunmen approached on three speedboats and ordered the fishermen to line up on their own boats before they were shot.

Visaya said that the gunmen resembled "a firing squad," and that some of the victims jumped into the sea as they were fired upon.

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Philippines wants to know if Arroyo ready for jail

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine officials have asked the court that is trying detained ex-President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to check if she is well enough to be moved from hospital detention to an ordinary cell. Court spokeswoman Felda Domingo said Tuesday that the Elections Commission has asked the Pasay Regional Trial Court to determine if Arroyo has recovered from a bone ailment so that she can be moved from her suite at the military's Veterans Memorial Medical Center. Arroyo has been in hospital detention since November, when she was arrested for her alleged role in the rigging of the 2007 senatorial elections. She has denied any wrongdoing. Domingo says Judge Jesus Mupas will order Arroyo's doctors to submit a report on her health condition before deciding where to detain her.

Manila seizes shipment feared bound for drugs gang

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine customs authorities waited a month to see who would claim the suspicious shipment of "kitchen equipment" from Taiwan. The unclaimed items seized Tuesday appeared to have been meant for cooking something illegal. A Chinese drug syndicate is suspected to have arranged the shipment to use the drumloads of chemicals, heating equipment and other items to produce large quantities of methamphetamine in the Philippines, officials said. After a tip-off from an informant, the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission secretly monitored the arrival of the shipment as part of a new crackdown to prevent foreign-based drug syndicates from setting up clandestine drug laboratories and secret warehouses in the country, specially in the capital.

Accidental bomb blast kills 4

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—An artillery round accidentally exploded while a welder and police commandos tinkered with it with an acetylene torch Wednesday, killing four people, including two policemen, in the Philippine capital, officials said. Ten other people, including another policeman, was wounded in the powerful blast in an ironworks shop in suburban Taguig city in the capital where the policemen brought the explosive apparently to have it defused and opened, police Senior Superintendent Tomas Apolinario Jr. said. Investigators were trying to determine where the policemen got the artillery round and why they brought it to an ironworks shop outside a police camp in Taguig instead of handing it to ordnance experts, who can safely defuse it, said Apolinario, who heads the Taguig police force. "There was a procedural lapse in the way they handled this artillery round," Apolinario said.

Samu't Sari

BON VOYAGE

Labor representative Carmelina Velasquez and UP Alumni Association's Fe Calixterio are flanked by Philippine Consulate General staffers and other Filipino community members at the Francisco C. Ada International Airport early Wednesday morning.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Labor attaché Carmelina Velasquez has her photo taken with officers and members of United Filipino Organization before leaving for her flight at the airport last Wednesday.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

IN SERVICE OF OFWS

From left, welfare officer Julie Fabian, administrative assistant Remily Oca, labor representative Carmelina Velasquez, Antonette Rosario Ocon, and Monica Austria pose for the Saipan Tribune at the Philippine Consulate General's POLO office in Susupe on Jan. 18.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

COURSE INSTRUCTORS

Labor representative Carmelina Velasquez gestures as she meets with instructors of the livelihood courses offered by the Philippine Consulate through the Philippine Overseas Labor Office at the Filipino Workers Resource Center on Jan. 14.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Belated happy 23rd birthday to our *par* and *nino*, Benusto "Benben" M. Lisua, who celebrated his special day on Jan. 22! May God bless you brother and may you have many more to come! Coming out from the *familia* up in Chinatown, but most especially from your birthday partner/goddaughter Lisa.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 13th birthday to Deion Xavier! Another year has passed and you have grown up to be a fine young man. May your day be filled with love and happiness. With all our love, your family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday to our "Little Rascals" Luis Joaquin "L.J. Boy" Litulumar Taman, who turned 4 on Jan. 15, and Lisa Marie Litulumar Taman, who turned 2 on Jan. 22!. May God bless you and may you both have many more birthdays to come! We love you both always and forever! Greetings come from the family, most especially Mommy and Daddy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to our greatest aunt and babysitter, Ruthian Limes Olopai! May God bless you always, especially on your day, Jan. 29,2012, as you turn 13! Thanks for all the love and care! With big hugs and kisses, KaiLani and Franklin.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 23rd birthday to our brother, Sergio Lisua aka "Sergie" who is celebrating his birthday today, Jan. 28! We hope you enjoy your special day and may it be filled with lots of *beeru* and *chesa*! God bless you and may you have many more birthdays to come! We love you Sergie! Coming out from "da crew" and the entire family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Economy gains as businesses spend more, fire less

WASHINGTON (AP)—Businesses are growing more confident in the economy, investing in more equipment and laying off fewer workers.

Government figures on manufacturing and unemployment claims released Thursday raised hopes on the eve of a report on how much the economy grew in the October-December quarter.

Still, 2011 ended up as the worst year on record for new-home sales, a reminder that the economy has a long way to go.

"Business optimism seems to be picking up, which is critical to the growth and competitiveness of the U.S. economy over the long haul," said Diane Swonk, chief economist at Mesirow Financial.

Orders for manufactured goods expected to last at least three years rose 3 percent last month, the Commerce Department said. And demand for goods that indicate business investment plans hit an all-time high.

A tax break that expired in December for large equipment purchases may have helped boost orders. Still, many economists said most companies are likely buying equipment simply because business is improving.

Manufacturers "have a real need to ramp up their spending on capital improvements ... because the economy is growing and industrial capacity has not kept up," said Carl Riccadonna, an economist at Deutsche Bank. That growth was evident after Caterpillar said its fourth-quarter profit jumped 60 percent. The world's largest maker of construction and mining equipment also issued 2012 guidance above Wall Street predictions.

And 3M Co., which makes everything from Post-It Notes to Scotch tape, said sales in its industrial and transportation unit rose 14 percent in the fourth-quarter. The increase was driven by parts for cars and planes.

Factories are busier in large part because businesses are ordering more communication equipment, industrial machinery and autos. Economists pay close attention to demand for such core capital goods, which are considered a good proxy for business investment plans.

In December, orders for core capital goods rose to a record $68.9 billion. That's more than 45 percent higher than the recession low hit in April 2009.

The increase offered some reassurance about the status of the recovery, especially after core capital goods fell in October and November. On Wednesday, the Federal Reserve cited the decline while warning that the economy remains vulnerable.

After seeing the government's report, some economists said those concerns may have been premature.

"With big-ticket spending rising and the labor market firming, the economy is a lot better than some central bankers think," said Joel Naroff, president of Naroff Economic Advisors.

AP

In this Jan. 6, 2012 photo, John Deere farm tractors are displayed at Sloan's Implement John Deere Dealership, in Virden, Ill.

No energy industry backing for the word 'fracking'

NEW YORK (AP)—A different kind of F-word is stirring a linguistic and political debate as controversial as what it defines.

The word is "fracking"—as in hydraulic fracturing, a technique long used by the oil and gas industry to free oil and gas from rock.

It's not in the dictionary, the industry hates it, and President Barack Obama didn't use it in his State of the Union speech—even as he praised federal subsidies for it.

The word sounds nasty, and environmental advocates have been able to use it to generate opposition—and revulsion—to what they say is a nasty process that threatens water supplies.

"It obviously calls to mind other less socially polite terms, and folks have been able to take advantage of that," said Kate Sinding, a senior attorney at the Natural Resources Defense Council who works on drilling issues.

One of the chants at an anti-drilling rally in Albany earlier this month was "No fracking way!"

Industry executives argue that the word is deliberately misspelled by environmental activists and that it has become a slur that should not be used by media outlets that strive for objectivity.

"It's a co-opted word and a co-opted spelling used to make it look as offensive as people can try to make it look," said Michael Kehs, vice president for Strategic Affairs at Chesapeake Energy, the nation's second-largest natural gas producer.

To the surviving humans of the sci-fi TV series "Battlestar Galactica," it has nothing to do with oil and gas. It is used as a substitute for the very down-to-Earth curse word.

Michael Weiss, a professor of linguistics at Cornell University, says the word originated as simple industry jargon, but has taken on a negative meaning over time—much like the word "silly" once meant "holy."

But "frack" also happens to sound like "smack" and "whack," with more violent connotations.

"When you hear the word `fracking,' what lights up your brain is the profanity," says Deborah Mitchell, who teaches marketing at the University of Wisconsin's School of Business. "Negative things come to mind."

Obama did not use the word in his State of the Union address Tuesday night, when he said his administration will help ensure natural gas will be developed safely, suggesting it would support 600,000 jobs by the end of the decade.

BoG to open new Mangilao branch on Jan. 30

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam is opening its new Mangilao Branch on Monday, Jan. 30, 2012. Located in the Mangilao Payless complex, the branch site has places for 80 vehicles. It is outfitted with LED lighting, high efficiency air-conditioning, and insulated walls. The parking lot lights are solar-powered.

Julie Gogue, assistant vice president, is Mangilao's branch manager and is ably staffed by six banking professionals. Bank of Guam has had a branch in Mangilao since 1991, celebrating 21 years of presence in that community.

Bank of Guam celebrates its 40th anniversary on March 13, 2012, and operates in 24 branches throughout Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and San Francisco, California. Employing over 500 employees, the bank also maintains 80 automatic teller machines and an Internet presence on its website, www.bankofguam.com

For more information, contact Jackie Marati at 472-5258. ***(BoG)***

Travelers will see changes at United Continental

By JOSHUA FREED
AP AIRLINES WRITER

Travelers will see big changes this year when they fly on United.

The airline, which merged with Continental in October 2010, said on Thursday that it's on track to combine computerized reservation systems and frequent-flier programs in early March. After that, it will move to a single website.

The update came as United Continental Holdings Inc. posted a fourth-quarter loss, due mostly to merger costs.

The combination of the two airlines into one carrier flying under the United name will speed up this year. The March computer changeover is an important part. The airline is a world-wide operation flying an average of 264,000 people every day. To sell tickets, its computers have to know where those planes are going and who is on them.

The changes mean that passengers will see a more unified airline. Travelers will be able to use ticket counters for either airline. The company's planes will have more gate options, because the computers at those gates will be able to handle both United and Continental flights.

Chairman and CEO Jeff Smisek said the company has done four dress rehearsals of moving the data. If something goes wrong they can either move back to the old system or postpone the transfer, he said.

"We are exceedingly well prepared for it," he said on a conference call. "I am confident this will go as planned."

Besides the computer switch, the company has repainted hundreds of planes and moved operations and some workers from Continental's old headquarters in Houston to its new base at United's headquarters in Chicago.

Largely because of merger expenses, United Continental lost $138 million, or 42 cents a share, in the fourth quarter. That was smaller than the year-earlier loss of $325 million, which was also due to merger expenses.

The company incurred $517 million in merger expenses in 2011, including $170 million in the fourth quarter. Chief Financial Officer Zane Rowe said costs are expected to continue at that fourth-quarter level at least through the first half of this year.

Helped by fare increases, revenue rose 5.5 percent to $8.93 billion, matching analyst expectations. Revenue for each passenger flown one mile rose 8.2 percent.

Despite higher fares and strong travel demand, United Continental said flying capacity in 2012 will be flat to down 1 percent. For the first quarter, it said flying capacity will range between rising 0.3 percent to falling 0.7 percent. It said it would reduce domestic flying and increase international flying. Its flying capacity shrank slightly last year, too.

For all of 2011, the company earned $840 million, down from a 2010 profit—if the two companies had been combined—of $955 million. Full-year revenue rose 8.8 percent to $37 billion.

Also Thursday, JetBlue Airways Corp. said its fourth-quarter profit nearly tripled to $23 million, or 8 cents per share, on an 11 percent increase in traffic. Revenue rose 22 percent to $1.15 billion. Both figures were better than analysts expected.

Alaska Air Group Inc., parent of Alaska Airlines, earned $64 million, or $1.76 per share, for the quarter. That was down 1 percent from a year earlier as its fuel bill jumped. Revenue rose 9 percent to $1.04 billion. Both figures were below analyst expectations.

United Continental shares rose $1.29, or 6.3 percent, to close at $21.70. JetBlue rose 23 cents, or 4.1 percent, to close at $5.80. Seattle-based Alaska Air Group fell $2.73, or 3.6 percent, to $72.71.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,734.63	1,318.43	2,805.28
-22.33	-7.62	-13.03
-0.18%	-0.57%	-0.46%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9418	Hong Kong Dollar	7.758	Philippine Peso	42.86
British Pound	0.6379	Indian Rupee	49.65	Singapore Dollar	1.2577
Canadian Dollar	1.0038	Indonesian Rupiah	8985	South Korean Won	1122.8
Chinese Yuan	6.307	Japanese Yen	77.035	Swiss Franc	0.9208
Euro	0.7631	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0423	Taiwan Dollar	29.805
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2172	Thailand Baht	31.31

Nation

Obama-Brewer friction on display on tarmac tiff

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer says she meant no disrespect when she pointed a finger at President Barack Obama during an intense discussion on an airport tarmac. But the Republican governor says the Democratic president showed disrespect for her by abruptly ending their conversation.

Obama, in an interview Thursday with ABC News, said it's "a classic example of things getting blown out of proportion."

The brief encounter—out of earshot of observers but captured on camera—was a highly visible demonstration of the verbal and legal skirmishing that has regularly occurred between Brewer and Obama's administration over illegal immigration and other issues.

Airport arrivals for presidents normally involve mere pleasantries between those involved, but Brewer and Obama have a history. And part of that history is what apparently got things going, according to accounts provided by Brewer and the White House.

Brewer said that during their talk, she invited Obama to visit Arizona to hear about her administration's achievements and to visit the U.S.-Mexico border, which has been a point of friction between the two because of illegal immigration issue.

Obama then said Brewer's recently published book mischaracterized a 2011 White House meeting between them.

Brewer said in an interview Thursday, at another Phoenix-area airport, that she talks a lot with her hands and that her pointing a finger at Obama during their conversation wasn't disrespectful.

"I respect the office of the president," she said. "I was there to welcome him."

She said she was grateful for the visit and intended to talk to him about the state's accomplishments. But she said she was "taken aback by his comments" when he said he wasn't happy with how her book described their White House meeting.

Immediately after the meeting, Brewer had said it was cordial, but her book said Obama lectured Brewer in the Oval Office and that she felt he was condescending toward her.

"It is what it is. I proceeded to say that to him, and he chose to walk away from me," she said Thursday.

Asked whether she regarded that as disrespectful, she replied: "Well, I would never have walked away from anybody having a conversation. And, of course, that is what it is. It is disrespectful for me."

AP

Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer points at President Barack Obama after he arrived at Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport, Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2012, in Mesa, Ariz.

Their relationship covers disagreements on "most of his policies," she said. "That doesn't mean we can't be cordial to one another."

The encounter was notable because it was rare case of an unscripted and tense moment between the president and a public official in view of reporters.

"I think it's always good publicity for a Republican if they're in an argument with me," Obama said in the ABC interview. "But this was really not a big deal. She wanted to give me a letter, asking for a meeting. And I said, `We'd be happy to meet.'"

White House press secretary Jay Carney chided reporters Thursday, saying the encounter with Brewer was getting too much attention from the press corps. The media coverage was overshadowing Obama's message of the day on energy.

Carney was questioned about Brewer's statement that Obama cut her short by walking away.

"I really assume you guys have more important issues to cover than this," Carney said.

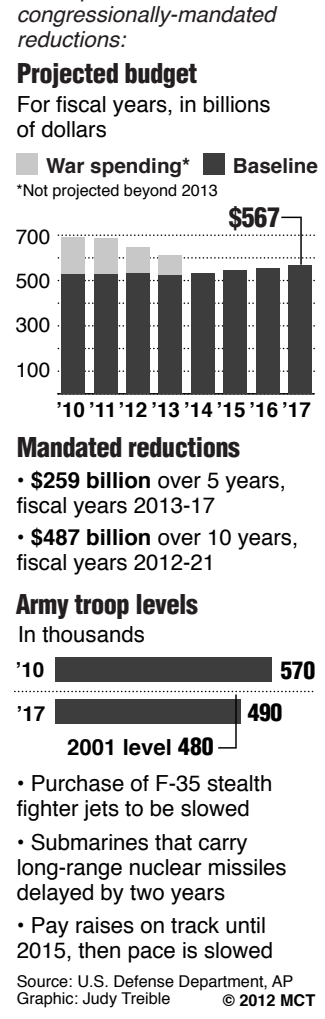
Pentagon: Army, Marines to shrink as budget slows

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Pentagon outlined a plan Thursday for slowing the growth of military spending, including cutting the size of the Army and Marine Corps, retiring older planes and trimming war costs. It drew quick criticism from Republicans, signaling the difficulty of scaling back defense budgets in an election year.

The changes Defense Secretary Leon Panetta described at a news conference are numerous but hardly dramatic. They aim to save money by delaying some big-ticket weapons like a next-generation nuclear-armed submarine, but the basic shape and structure of the military remains the same.

The Army would shrink from a peak of 570,000 to 490,000 within five years, and the Marines would drop by 20,000, to 182,000. Those are considerable declines, but both services will still be slightly larger than on 9/11, before they began a decade of war. Both will keep their footholds abroad, although the Army will decrease its presence in Europe and the Marines plan to increase theirs in Asia.

Panetta said the administration will ask Congress for $525 billion to run the Pentagon in 2013 - $6 billion less than the current budget. War costs, which are not considered part of the base budget, would decline from $115 billion to $88 billion, reflecting the completion of the U.S. withdrawal from Iraq.


Defense cuts
The Pentagon has outlined how it plans to meet congressionally-mandated reductions:
Projected budget
For fiscal years, in billions of dollars
War spending*
Baseline
*Not projected beyond 2013
$567
700
500
300
100
'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17
Mandated reductions
• $259 billion over 5 years, fiscal years 2013-17
• $487 billion over 10 years, fiscal years 2012-21
Army troop levels
In thousands
'10 570
'17 490
2001 level 480
• Purchase of F-35 stealth fighter jets to be slowed
• Submarines that carry long-range nuclear missiles delayed by two years
• Pay raises on track until 2015, then pace is slowed
Source: U.S. Defense Department, AP
Graphic: Judy Treible
© 2012 MCT

The base budget would then increase in each year of the Pentagon's five-year plan, reaching $567 billion in 2017. A year ago the Pentagon had projected 2017 spending to reach $622 billion. The Pentagon counts those reductions in projected future spending as "defense savings."

When Obama took office in January 2009 the Pentagon's base budget was $513 billion. In 2001 it was $297 billion.

Under a budget deficit-cutting deal Congress made last summer, the Pentagon is committed to reducing projected spending by $487 billion over the next 10 years. The plan Panetta presented Thursday covers the first five years of that span and would cut a cumulative total of $259 billion in planned spending.

"We believe this is a balanced and complete package," Panetta said.

In a bid to pre-empt election-year Republican criticism, Panetta said the plan begins to shift the Pentagon's focus from the long wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to future challenges in Asia, the Mideast and in cyberspace. More special operations forces like the Navy SEALs who killed Osama bin Laden will be available around the world, he said, and the Pentagon will stress improvements in cyberdefenses.

Republicans were quick to pounce on the proposed Army and Marine Corps reductions.

Romney is the aggressor in final Florida debate

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—An aggressive Mitt Romney repeatedly challenged Republican presidential rival Newt Gingrich in a fast-paced campaign debate Thursday night, ridiculing the former House speaker's call to build costly projects in key primary states and to colonize the moon.

Just days before the primary election in Florida, a state with a large number of immigrants, Romney vehemently denied Gingrich's own accusation that he is anti-immigrant—more so than any other candidate. And, as charges flew back and forth, Gingrich rebutted any suggestion that he wasn't the man to rein in federal spending.

"You don't just have to be cheap everywhere. You can actually have priorities to get things done," Gingrich declared, saying that as speaker of the House he had helped balance the budget while doubling spending on the National Institutes of health.

The debate was the second in four days in the run-up to next Tuesday's Florida primary. Opinion polls make the race a close one—slight advantage Romney—with two other contenders, former Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania and Texas Rep. Ron Paul far behind.

Gingrich's upset victory in the South Carolina primary last week upended the race for the nomination to oppose Democratic President Barack Obama in the fall, and Romney in particular can ill-afford a defeat on Tuesday.

While the clashes between Gingrich and Romney dominated the debate, Santorum drew applause from the audience when he called on the two front-runners to stop attacking one another and "focus on the issues."

"Can we set aside that Newt was a member of Congress ... and that Mitt Romney is a wealthy guy?" he said in a tone of exasperation.

There were some moments of levity, including when Paul, 76, was asked whether he would be willing to release his medical records. He said he was, then challenged the other three men on the debate stage to a 25-mile bike race.

He got no takers.

The first clash occurred moments after the debate opened, when Gingrich responded to a question by saying Romney was the most anti-immigrant of all four contenders on stage. "That's simply inexcusable," the former Massachusetts governor responded.

"Mr. Speaker, I'm not anti-immigrant, my father was born in Mexico," Romney declared. "I'm not anti-immigrant."

At the same time, Romney noted that Gingrich's campaign had been pressured to stop running a radio ad that called Romney anti-immigrant after Florida Sen. Marco Rubio called on Gingrich to do so.

He called on Gingrich to apologize for the commercial, but got no commitment.

ACROSS THE NATION

Debate over Calif.'s new 'clean car' regs

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Auto dealers say California's proposed rules to require carmakers to build more electric and other less-polluting hybrid cars and trucks by 2025 will cost consumers more money and will stifle the industry's growth. Consumer groups say customers might pay more for the vehicles but will save in lower fuel and other costs. Both sides submitted testimony Thursday during a meeting of the state's air quality board, which was poised to vote on rules to require that vehicles emit about 75 percent less smog-producing pollutants.

CIA to pull officer from NYPD after internal probe

WASHINGTON (AP)—A CIA operative's unusual assignment inside the New York Police Department is being cut short after an internal investigation that criticized how the agency established its unprecedented collaboration with city police, The Associated Press has learned. In its investigation, the CIA's inspector general faulted the agency for sending an officer to New York with little oversight after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and then leaving him there too long, according to officials who have read or been briefed on the inquiry. They spoke only on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the investigation. The CIA said last month that the inspector general cleared the agency of any wrongdoing.

Activists send hundreds of tacos to Conn. mayor

EAST HAVEN, Conn. (AP)—The office of East Haven's mayor was blasted with prank phone calls and a delivery of hundreds of tacos Thursday after his now-famous quip that he would address accusations of anti-Latino bias by eating tacos, a remark that left emotions raw in the town's large Hispanic community. Mayor Joseph Maturo Jr. has apologized several times but resisted calls for his resignation over remarks he made to a television reporter following Tuesday's arrests of four town police officers, men described by one FBI official as "bullies with badges." Maturo held regular meetings Thursday as Connecticut's Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission called on him to resign.

Asia

Australian govt, activists trade blame for clash

SYDNEY (AP)—Authorities and indigenous-rights protesters blamed each other Friday for a heated clash in which bodyguards had to rush Prime Minister Julia Gillard out of an event marking the anniversary of British colonization.

Gillard stumbled in Thursday's fray and lost a shoe, which protesters scooped up after the rowdy demonstration in the capital Canberra. Aboriginal-rights supporters had surrounded a restaurant and banged on its windows while Gillard and opposition leader Tony Abbott were inside at an award ceremony to mark Australia Day.

Michael Outram, national manager of protection for the Australian Federal Police, said police may file charges against some of the protesters. Gillard said Friday that she was fine, but slammed the activists' actions.

"I've got no troubles at all with peaceful protests. ... What I utterly condemn is when protests turn violent the way we saw the violence yesterday, and particularly to disrupt an event which was to honor some extraordinary Australians," she said.

Protest leaders denied doing anything wrong, accused the police of manhandling protesters and said they planned to lodge a complaint against the officers involved.

AP

Aboriginal protesters from their Tent Embassy burn a U.S. flag during a protest outside Parliament House in Canberra, Australia, Friday, Jan. 27, 2012.

"The Australian Federal Police came at us with force and we did not retaliate with force," protest spokeswoman Selina Daveys-Newry told reporters Friday. "We see straight through that little puppet play."

About 200 indigenous-rights supporters marched on the nation's Parliament House on Friday, burning an Australian flag in front of a wall of police and carrying signs with messages such as "All cops are bastards." No one was hurt and the protesters left minutes later.

The restaurant where Thursday's clash occurred is close to the so-called Aboriginal Tent Embassy, where the protesters had demonstrated peacefully earlier in the day. That long-standing, ramshackle collection of tents and temporary shelters is a center point of protests against Australia Day, which marks the arrival of the first fleet of British colonists in Sydney on Jan. 26, 1788. Many Aborigines call it Invasion Day because the land was settled without a treaty with traditional owners.

Outram defended the way Thursday's incident had been handled, saying police had no idea the protest—which had been peaceful for much of the day—would turn aggressive.

"We had no information or reason to suspect there was going to be any problem," Outram told reporters in Canberra.

Abbott was the focus of much of the protesters' rage. The Tent Embassy celebrated its 40th anniversary on Thursday, and Abbott had earlier angered activists by saying it was time the embassy "moved on." Abbott said Friday that his comment had been misinterpreted, and that he never meant to imply the embassy should be torn down.

Questions lingered, meanwhile, about the fate of Gillard's high-heeled blue suede shoe. There was talk about holding it for ransom or auctioning it off on eBay, but Tent Embassy founder Michael Anderson said at a press conference Friday that it would be returned to the prime minister.

Japan's 'Nuclear Alley' conflicted over reactors

OHI, Japan (AP)—International inspectors are visiting a rugged Japanese bay region so thick with reactors it is dubbed "Nuclear Alley," where residents remain deeply conflicted as Japan moves to restart plants idled after the Fukushima disaster.

The local economy depends heavily on the industry, and the national government hopes that "stress tests" at idled plants—the first of which is being reviewed this week by the International Atomic Energy Agency—will show they are safe enough to switch back on.

But last year's tsunami crisis in northeastern Japan with meltdowns at three of the Fukushima reactors has fanned opposition to the plants here in western Fukui prefecture, a mountainous region surrounding Wakasa Bay that also relies on fishing and tourism and where the governor has come out strongly against nuclear power.

AP

Kansai Electric Power Co's Ohi nuclear power plant No. 3, right, and No. 4 reactors are seen in Ohi, Fukui prefecture, north of Tokyo, Thursday, Jan. 26, 2012.

"We don't need another Fukushima, and we don't want to repeat the same mistake here," said Eiichi Inoue, a 63-year-old retiree in the coastal town of Obama. "I know they added stress tests, but what exactly are they doing?"

"I oppose restarting them," he said.

Other residents said that economic realities made the plants indispensable, including Chikako Shimamoto, a 38-year-old fitness instructor in Takahama, a town that hosts one of the region's nuclear plants.

"We all know that we better not restart them," Shimamoto said. "But we need jobs and we need business in this town.

"Our lives in this town depends on the nuclear power plant and we have no choice," she said.

On Thursday, an IAEA team visited a plant in the town of Ohi to check whether officials at operator Kansai Electric Power Co. had correctly done the tests at two reactors. The tests are designed to assess whether plants can withstand earthquakes, tsunamis, loss of power or other emergencies, and suggest changes to improve safety.

Their visit, at Japan's invitation, appeared aimed at reassuring a skeptical public that authorities are taking the necessary precautions before bringing nuclear plants back on line. After the visit, IAEA team leader James Lyons said its assessment would be released at the end of the month but deciding whether to restart the reactors was up to the Japanese goverment.

Some experts are critical of the stress tests, saying they are meaningless because they have no clear criteria, and view the IAEA as biased toward the nuclear industry.

Pakistan: Rocket attack near bin Laden's compound

ABBOTTABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Unknown assailants fired rocket propelled grenades at the military academy near Osama bin Laden's compound in the Pakistani city of Abbottabad early Friday morning, causing damage but no casualties, police said.

It was the first attack in the normally peaceful northwest city since U.S. Navy Seals killed bin Laden during a daring night raid on his compound last May. The grenades damaged a wall of the academy, said senior local police officer Abdul Karim.

The operation against bin Laden outraged Pakistani officials because they were not told about it beforehand. Many U.S. officials questioned how bin Laden could live for years near Pakistan's equivalent of West Point. But the U.S. has not found evidence senior Pakistani leaders knew he was there.

On Thursday, Iranian security forces killed six Pakistani traders taking goats into Iran, a Pakistani official said. Iranian officials were not immediately available for comment.

The incident happened on the Iranian side of the border near the southeastern Pakistani town of Gwadar, said its deputy commissioner Abdur Rehman.

Rehman said Iranian authorities were not releasing the bodies. He gave no more details.

Earlier this month, Iranian security personnel allegedly crossed into southwest Pakistan and killed one man.

There is occasional violence along the poorly marked border, where smuggling, banditry and terrorism are rife.

The incidents do not appear to have affected Islamabad's relations with Tehran, which are based on larger regional interests.

Pakistan's ties with Iran have ebbed and flowed over the last 20 years, dependent largely on developments elsewhere in a turbulent region, where Iran's archrivals Saudi Arabia and the United States have also sought influence. Sunni-Shia tensions within Pakistan have also been a factor.

Relations have been stable since the downfall of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan in 2002.

Pakistan is battling an Islamist militant insurgency along its border with Afghanistan in the northwest of the country.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Exiled leader says killing of Tibetans unacceptable

DHARMSALA, India (AP)—The Tibetan government-in-exile denounced the slayings of Tibetan protesters by security forces in China and urged the Beijing government Thursday to address the region's grievances. Lobsang Sangay, head of the government-in-exile based in northern India, called for a worldwide vigil by Tibetans and their supporters next month to press the Chinese government to resolve the crisis in Tibet through dialogue. "Let us send a loud and clear message to the Chinese government that violence and killing of innocent Tibetans is unacceptable," he said in a statement following reports of more deaths in southwestern China.

Severe flooding, landslides kill 6 in Fiji

SUVA, Fiji (AP)—Severe flooding and landslides in Fiji have killed six people and left hundreds more homeless. The permanent secretary of information for the South Pacific nation said Thursday that heavy rain since last weekend has forced 3,500 people into temporary shelters. Sharon Smith-Johns also says some people have lost all their possessions. She says a landslide Wednesday killed a family of four, including two toddlers, in the remote Tukuraki village on the main island of Viti Levu. She says two farmers also died in separate incidents as they tried to rescue livestock on the islands of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu.

World

Iran is ready to return to nuclear talks

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran is ready to revive talks with the U.S. and other world powers, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Thursday, but suggested that Tehran's foes will have to make compromises to prevent negotiations from again collapsing in stalemate.

Iran's insistence that it will never give up uranium enrichment—the process that makes material for reactors as well as weapons—scuttled negotiations a year ago and still looms as a potential deal breaker even as tougher Western sanctions target Iran's critical oil exports.

Ahmadinejad added his voice to proposals by Iranian officials to return to talks Thursday at a rally in the southeastern city of Kerman, saying a nation that is in the "right" should not be worried about holding dialogue.

Iran indicated earlier this week that it was ready for a new round of talks with the five permanent U.N. Security Council members plus Germany. Ahmadinejad—the highest-ranking official so far to make the offer—gave no further details about a potential timetable or venue.

The European Union's foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton had welcomed the proposals to restart talks—possibly in Turkey—but urged Tehran to bring "some concrete issues to talk about."

"It is very important that it is not just about words. A meeting is not an excuse, a meeting is an opportunity and I hope that they will seize it," she said Monday in Brussels as the 27-nation bloc adopted its toughest measures yet on Iran with an oil embargo and freeze of the country's central bank assets.

That followed U.S. action also aimed at limiting Iran's ability to sell oil, which accounts for 80 percent of its foreign revenue.

In the past, Iran has angered Western officials by appearing to buy time through opening talks and weighing proposals even while pressing ahead with its nuclear program.

Britain's Foreign Office said that the six world powers were awaiting a response to a letter sent to Tehran by Ashton in October.

"The door is open, if Iran is willing to talk about its nuclear program in a serious and meaningful manner, without preconditions. The ball is in Iran's court," a spokesman for the ministry said, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with policy.

The United States and its allies want Iran to halt uranium enrichment, which they worry could eventually lead to weapons-grade material and the production of nuclear weapons. Iran says its program is for peaceful purposes—generating electricity and producing medical radioisotopes to treat cancer patients.

Negotiations between Iran and the international envoys fell apart in January 2011, and Iran later rejected a plan to send its stockpile of low-enriched uranium abroad in exchange for reactor-ready fuel rods. Ahmadinejad tried to turn the tables, accusing the West of claiming to seek talks but preferring failure as a way to further punish Iran with what the Islamic Republic has called "economic warfare."

"It is you who come up with excuses each time and issue resolutions on the verge of talks so that negotiations collapse," Ahmadinejad said. "It is evident that those who resort to coercion are opposed to talks and always bring pretexts and blame us instead."

A U.N. nuclear agency team is expected to visit Tehran on Saturday, the first such mission since a report in November that alleged Iran had conducted secret weapons-related tests and that Tehran was on the brink of developing a nuclear weapon.

The delegation from the International Atomic Energy Agency will be led by Deputy Director General Herman Nackaerts, who is in charge of the Iran nuclear file.

Stemming the flow

Efforts to reduce the world's dependence on Iranian oil have had mixed results. How major importers have reacted:

Iranian oil export destinations, Jan.-June 2011

22%	China	• Has called sanction efforts against Iran unproductive • A recent vist to Saudi Arabia by Chinese officials could signal the possibility of China shifting its dependence from Iran
18%	European Union	• Announced oil embargo on Iran that will be phased in during coming months • Also agreed to freeze assets of Iran's central bank in the EU
14%	Japan	• Committed earlier this month to reduce purchases from Iran, then gave conflicting accounts of what it agreed to do
13%	India	• Announced it would not stop the import of Iranian oil and will only accept sanctions made by the U.N.
10%	South Korea	• Is in discussions with U.S. officials to find alternative sources
7%	Turkey	• Looking for alternative sources
16%	Others	

Source: Energy Information Administration, BBC
Graphic: Chicago Tribune

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Somali captors move US hostage after SEAL raid

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—Pirates moved an American hostage at least three times in 24 hours and threatened Thursday to kill him after U.S. Navy SEALs rescued an American and a Dane in a bold, dark-of-night raid that raises questions about whether other Western captives are now in greater danger.

"If they try again, we will all die together," warned Hassan Abdi, a Somali pirate connected to the gang holding the American, who was kidnapped Saturday in northern Somalia.

"It's difficult to hold U.S. hostages, because it's a game of chance: die or get huge money. But we shall stick with our plans and will never release him until we get a ransom," Abdi said.

U.S. Navy SEALs parachuted into Somalia early Wednesday and hiked to where captors were holding 32-year-old American Jessica Buchanan and Poul Hagen Thisted, a 60-year-old Dane. A shootout ensued and nine captors were killed. Buchanan, Thisted and the U.S. troops were all unharmed. The two aid workers had been kidnapped by gunmen in October while working on demining projects for the Danish Refugee Council.

Stricken ship passengers ponder compensation

BERLIN (AP)—Herbert Greszuk was at the bar on the fifth deck of the Costa Concordia when the ill-fated luxury liner hit a reef.

Unable to get back to his second-deck cabin after the emergency signal came, he made it to a lifeboat with only the clothes on his back—leaving behind everything he had with him for the cruise, including his tuxedo, camera, jewelry, euro400 ($520) in cash, credit cards, identity papers and even his dentures.

The 62-year-old, who runs a small flower shop and cafe in the western German town of Recklinghausen, counts himself lucky to have escaped the ship after it capsized Jan. 13, leaving at least 16 dead and 16 still missing.

But, he estimates that he lost at least euro10,000 ($13,000) in goods alone. He's only one of the 4,200 passengers and crew who were on board and will likely want compensation, and material loss just scratches the surface. There's the ruined holiday, physical and mental trauma, and payments to families of the dead, among other things, in an incident many believe was preventable.

"It's about accountability, " Greszuk told The Associated Press in a telephone interview from his cafe. "Something like this must not be allowed to happen again. So many people died; it's simply inexcusable."

In Rome on Thursday, representatives of ship operator Costa Crociere SpA met with consumer activists to discuss a blanket compensation deal for some 3,206 people from 61 countries who suffered no physical harm when the ship hit the reef.

AP

In this undated photo released by the Italian Navy Thursday, Jan. 26, 2012, the Costa Concordia cruise ship is seen grounded off the Tuscan island of Giglio, Italy.

The offer would consider the price of the ticket, costs incurred in getting home after the disaster, the cost of items lost aboard the ship as well as damages for the ruined vacation and trauma resulting from the accident, said Furio Truzzi of the consumer group Assoutenti.

It would not apply to the hundreds of crew on the ship, the roughly 100 cases of people injured or the families who lost loved ones.

"We are working for a collective transaction to come up with a value for damages," Truzzi said. "Each passenger can decide if this proposal is satisfactory. If it is not, they are free to react through a lawyer."

Truzzi said it was premature to discuss exact amounts of compensation. He said it would be an average and that any passenger who deemed his or her losses greater than the offer was free to counter the proposal.

He said Assoutenti would work separately on a proposal for those who lost loved ones in the disaster and was open to working with crew members.

The ship ran aground off the Tuscan island of Giglio after the captain, Francesco Schettino, veered from his approved course. Costa Crociere's chief executive, Pier Luigi Foschi, has said Schettino didn't have approval to change the course and was going too fast—16 knots—to be so close to shore.

WORLD BRIEFS

Egypt bans travel for US official's son, 9 others

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt banned at least 10 Americans and Europeans from leaving the country, including the son of U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray Lahood, hiking tensions with Washington over a campaign by Egypt's military against groups promoting democracy and human rights. The United States warned Thursday that the campaign raised concerns about Egypt's transition to democracy and could jeopardize American aid that Egypt's battered economy needs badly after a year of unrest. The travel ban was part of an Egyptian criminal investigation into foreign-funded democracy organizations after soldiers raided the offices of 10 such groups last month, including those of two American groups.

9 killed in violence-plagued northern Mexican city

MONTERREY, Mexico (AP)—Nine people were shot to death early Thursday in the center of Monterrey, the third-largest city in Mexico and the scene of rampant drug violence in recent years. The bodies of eight men between ages 25 and 30 were found on a street corner after neighbors reported hearing gunfire, said Adrian de la Garza, the Nuevo Leon state attorney general. The body of a woman was found nearby. De la Garza said the crimes appeared to be linked by the type of weapon used, but provided no more details.

Medical group halts work in Libyan city's prisons

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP)—Doctors Without Borders has suspended its work in prisons in the Libyan city of Misrata because it said torture was so rampant that some detainees were brought for care only to make them fit for further interrogation, the group said Thursday. The announcement was compounded by a statement from Amnesty International saying it has recorded widespread prisoner abuse in other cities as well, leading to the death of several inmates. The allegations, which come more than three months after former leader Moammar Gadhafi was captured and killed, were an embarrassment to the governing National Transitional Council, which is struggling to establish its authority in the divided nation.

YoungStyle

MCT

Make a frog visor that will attract fireflies.

Kids' Krafts: Make a visor to attract fireflies

By KATHY ANTONIOTTI
AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

What if frogs glowed in the dark like fireflies? Do you think the frog would be frightened of the tiny beetle?

Well if they aren't, they should be.

Fireflies carry a poison that poses a threat to pets, especially lizards, birds, and amphibians, including frogs.

Although their shining lights may be a beacon to hungry predators, the beetle carries a toxic chemical that has proven to be poisonous to certain animals.

It proves the proverb that all that glitters is not gold. Studies have shown that just one firefly contains enough poison to kill a lizard.

Fireflies, also called lightning bugs, attract mates with their glittery glow, created through a chemical process called bioluminescence. It also warns predators that the bugs taste bitter and to stay away—even if the toxins don't kill them.

You can use glow-in-the-dark, or fluorescent/luminous paint to turn the tables on the lightning bugs. The chemical component of the paint is based on the phosphor pigment that can accumulate the energy from a light source, store it and give off light through a process called "photo-luminescence."

I took a ready-made sun visor and red and white foam sheets to make a frog that will appear to be floating through the air after dark, the best time to hunt lightning bugs.

You can keep the bugs in a jar with holes in the lid; just remember to release the fireflies soon after capture so they aren't harmed. The fluorescent paint and the visor are available at craft stores.

Supplies you will need:

One ready-made sun visor.
Glow-in-the-dark paint.
Brush.
One sheet each white and red foam.
Scissors.
Glue.
Black marking pen.

Cut two large ovals out of white craft foam for eyes. Draw a large, fat C-shape on the eyes with a black marker and set aside.

Cut a tongue shape from red foam. Draw a black line down the center of the tongue for definition.

Glue the eyes and the tongue onto the visor using the photo for placement and set aside until the glue dries.

Paint the eyes (except for the black iris) and the tongue with glow-in-the-dark paint.

Leave the visor in the sun for a while to absorb the sun's energy, and wear it after dark to look like a really large frog floating through space—hopefully, you won't scare the lightning bugs away.

What's shakin'? Rain stick

By KATHY ANTONIOTTI
AKRSON BEACON JOURNAL

You can find the directions at http://www.diynetwork.com on the Web to make this rain stick out of a paper towel tube and masking tape.

MCT

People who live in drought-stricken parts of the world will tell you that nothing in nature can survive without water—especially people. Although the seasonal drought map from the National Weather Service shows an improved outlook for some parts of the southeastern United States, the lack of rain in some states has created problems that have leaders looking for new ways to provide residents with fresh water.

Legends claim Chilean natives of South America invented an instrument that could help. A rain stick, shaken to sound like soft falling rain, was supposed to alert the gods to the suffering of the natives during times of drought. The percussion instrument, made with a hollowed-out cactus or bamboo stem, replicates the sound of a rain storm.

During the month of April, and in honor of Earth Day on April 22, I am featuring crafts that can be made with the three R's in mind: Reduce, reuse and recycle items that would otherwise end up in a landfill.

Using instructions I found at the DIY Network Web site, I made a rain stick with a paper towel tube and masking tape. You can find the directions at http://www.diynetwork.com on the Web. Type "rain stick" in the search box.

Supplies you will need:

Paper towel roll.
Brown shoe polish.
White glue.
Nail.
Card stock.
Masking tape.
Wooden toothpicks.
Rice.
Scissors.

Push lots of holes in the tube with the nail. Try not to crush the tube while you work.

Cover one end of the tube with tape to close it.

Put toothpicks through one hole and out one on the other side. There is no special order, just keep crisscrossing them. The more toothpicks you put in the tube, the more sound it will create when it's shaken.

Place a dab of glue on each toothpick where it meets the cardboard tube and let dry.

Use scissors to cut off sharp toothpick points as flat to the sides of the tube as possible.

Cut two circles out of card stock. Tape one over the closed end for extra strength so the rice will not fall out.

Cut a piece of card stock the length of the tube and wide enough to wrap around it with a little overlap. Tape the card stock cover around the tube.

Fill the tube with one to two cups of rice. Tape the other circle to the open end and cover with tape.

Cover the entire tube with small pieces of hand-torn masking tape, giving it the appearance of a bamboo pole.

Rub the surface with brown shoe polish and let dry. Buff to get all the excess polish off and to leave the surface shiny.

Experiment with your new rain stick to see how you want to play it. It can be shaken or simply turned from one end to the other to make the sound of falling rain.

US teens struggle to find elusive part-time jobs

By STEPHANIE REITZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—The economic turmoil that has left many Americans without work is having a disproportionate effect on teenage jobseekers, whose quest for entry-level positions often pits them against experienced older workers willing to take any job for a paycheck.

U.S. labor figures show the 2011 unemployment rate nationwide averaged just below 9 percent, but for jobseekers ages 16 to 19, it was almost 25 percent—the third consecutive year in that range, and with some cities recording rates far higher.

Automation has also eliminated many of the after-school, weekend and summer jobs that had been the longtime domain of first-time workers as computerized equipment has helped companies trim positions in everything from local car washes to photocopy shops and supermarkets.

Participants discussing the trend at a forum Tuesday in Hartford say that it's alarming, and that society suffers when an entire generation's chance to learn valuable workplace skills are delayed or denied. On a personal level, it's also a source of growing stress for teenagers who need jobs for experience, pocket money or to help their families.

"My mom doesn't have a lot of money and what she does have, she spends on me and on my brother, so I really want to work and be able to help and take care of some things myself," said Trisana Spence, 16, who moved last year from New York City's Brooklyn borough to Hartford and hopes someday to become a lawyer.

Spence, a junior at the Hartford Culinary Arts Academy high school, might end up with a slight advantage.

She's in a paid internship through her school and the city's Blue Hills Civic Association to learn job skills and will be placed at a yet-undetermined job this summer. She says she'll work extra hard in hopes that the employer will keep her on board even after the summer so she can help pay for household expenses and some extras, such as her 4-year-old brother's karate lessons.

Participants at Tuesday's forum said that partnerships between government and civic groups, businesses, nonprofit agencies and other organizations may be a key factor to helping job-seeking teens, but that those groups face financial hurdles to keep internships and job-training programs going, too.

The White House and U.S. Department of Labor this month kicked off a campaign appealing to the private sector to create 250,000 more summer jobs in businesses, nonprofits and government agencies, with at least 100,000 of them being paid spots.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal, a Connecticut Democrat who attended Tuesday's forum, said that initiative and others are critical to ensure teens get a chance to learn job skills and prepare for careers.

"The phenomenon of youth unemployment is sweeping the world, not just Connecticut," said Blumenthal, who credits his first job as a camp counselor with introducing him to mentors and the sense of pride and responsibility that work can instill.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the 2011 nationwide unemployment rate of 24.4 percent for teen job-seekers from 16 to 19 years old was the second highest recorded since it started keeping the statistic in the late 1940s. The figures reflect teens actively seeking jobs and do not include those not applying for positions.

The 2010 figure was the highest at 25.9 percent, though it approached 20 percent in the mid-1970s and nudged slightly over that level in 1982 and 1983.

In recent decades, teens had the best luck getting jobs in the boom years around the turn of the millennium, when their unemployment rate was around 13 percent—and those workers, a large part of today's adult workforce, have a track record of experience that often puts them ahead of today's teens in the job hunt.

Nationwide and in cities like Hartford, there's heavy competition for each available job.

Federal labor statistics show there's an average of 4.2 people out of work for each job that's open nationwide depending on industries and regions.

It's no longer enough for teens to be willing to work for entry-level wages, since many displaced experienced workers are also willing to take lower pay for a chance at a regular income, some experts said Tuesday.

Nineteen-year-old Calvin Brown of Bristol sees that first hand. When he was in high school, he felt fortunate to be able to get a few hours of work each week at a local convenience store—"Just about enough to pay for gas," said Brown, now an unpaid intern for U.S. Rep. John Larson, D-Conn.

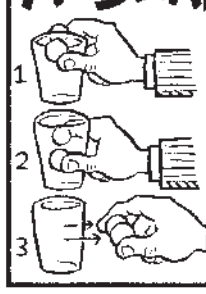
The experience is worth the financial trade-off for Brown, a political science major at Central Connecticut State University, but he said he still sees many of his friends struggle to find jobs.

"A lot of time, it ends up being through connections: `Oh, I'm cleaning floors at my father's shop,' or something like that," Brown said. "But a lot of time, even in the most entry-level jobs, you're competing against someone with a lot of experience."

John Twomey, chief executive officer of the New York Association of Training and Employment Professionals Inc., said the teens' observations are borne out in unemployment figures that show a wide gap between teens seeking jobs and those actually finding them.

"They're not all in basketball camp or backpacking in Europe," he said, jokingly, of those without jobs. "Kids want to work. We're in danger of graduating a whole generation of kids who don't know how to work."

A "SNAPPY" TRICK!



1. Snap the coins down against the outside of the glass.
2. Slide them down to the middle of the glass.
3. Pinch your fingers together and the two coins will snap off together.

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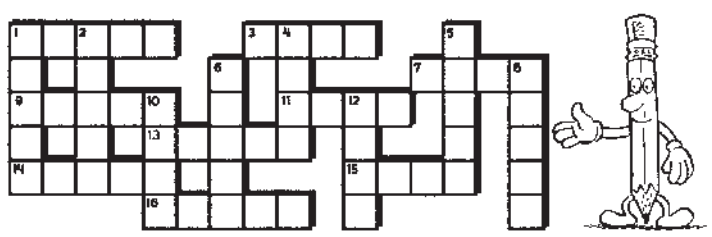
BALANCE TWO SMALL COINS on the rim of a water glass. Challenge your friends to remove them using only two fingers. The solution is shown above. A little practice will make you perfect.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

A FILL-IN PUZZLE!



Illustrated by David Coulson

Pictured above is a crossword puzzle grid. Below are the 17 words that you'll need to complete the puzzle using the trial-and-error method. Keep a good eraser handy!

ADZE	ENDED	SCONE
ALBUM	FUSED	SUDS
BEAR	OASIS	UMBER
BLEAK	RANK	WADER
CLAW	SAFER	ZERO
EBBS	SAMBA	

Answers: (Across) 1. Safer, 3. Ebbs, 7. Claw, 9. Oasis, 11. Adze, 13. Umber, 14. Ended, 15. Rank, 16. Samba. (Down) 1. Scone, 2. Fused, 4. Bear, 5. Bleak, 6. Album, 8. Wader, 10. Suds, 12. Zero.

DOODLE PICS! The two pictures shown here are graphic presentations of familiar words, phrases or names. You have one minute to identify both.

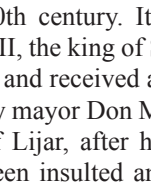
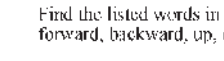


FIG. 1

FIG. 2

Answer: 1. Dairy Queen. 2. Upper crust.

CHAIN REACTION! Take the seven letters printed below our diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read, top to bottom, along the connecting lines. All the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.



Answers: Top to bottom, left to right: Reel, reed, rend, rent, rand, rant, rapt, raps.

Dog hates bathtub

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My German shepherd, "Silky," is 10 years old and has developed hip dysplasia, which makes her pretty uncomfortable. She avoids slippery floors and she hates the tub, but I need to give her a bath. Any way I can do this better to keep her comfortable?—Jack T., Oklahoma City

DEAR JACK: There are a few ways to help Silky stay comfortable while being bathed. First, try placing a large, wet towel in the tub that she can stand on to gain traction. Lift her into the high-sided tub rather than make her jump in. Shepherds are large dogs, so if need be, work with a second person and tandem lift her, with one of you cradling under her chest and the other cradling her midsection and then tucking the other arm between her back legs and supporting her belly.

A step-in shower is an even better option, if you have one. Again, put down a wet towel so that she feels secure standing or sitting.

In warm weather, you could set up an inflatable kiddie pool and fill it with warm water. This gives big dogs enough room to sit or even lie down during their bath, and they can just walk into it over the low sides.

During the bath itself it's important to work fast. Keep Silky's collar and leash on so you can hold her still as you wet her down (either with warm water scooped in a cup or using a sprayer attachment), add soap (only soap formulated for use on dogs), then rinse. Talk soothingly through the whole process. Once complete, lift her out of the tub onto a nonslip rug and towel-dry her fur, then give her lots of praise and a treat.

■ ■ ■

Send your questions or tips to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. For more pet care-related advice and information, visit www.pawscorner.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

by Samantha Weaver

■ It was 20th-century American critic John Leonard who made the following sage observation: "To be capable of embarrassment is the beginning of moral consciousness. Honor grows from qualms."

■ You've probably never heard of the Spanish village of Lijar, located in the south of that country. This village, though, was involved in a nearly 100-year war that lasted well into the 20th century. It seems that in 1883, Alfonso XII, the king of Spain, made a state visit to Paris and received a less-than-royal welcome. Led by mayor Don Miguel Garcia Saez, the citizens of Lijar, after hearing that their monarch had been insulted and possibly accosted by mobs, declared war on France. Though there were no casualties—not even any gunfire—the war lasted until 1981. That was when the town council ruled that it would end hostilities with France thanks to the warm welcome King Juan Carlos of Spain received in France in 1976.

■ The town of Adamant, Vermont, was once named Sodom. The townspeople voted to change the name in 1905.

■ The first portable computer was made available to the public in 1975. In this instance, however, "portable" was used as a relative term; the IBM 5100 weighed 55 pounds.

■ Only 5 percent of American men report that they feel satisfied with their looks. With women, it's only 1 percent.

■ In 2008, a study was conducted in the United Kingdom to determine what, if any, effect the consumption of tomatoes had on the human body's reaction to sun exposure. The university students enrolled in the study who consumed the equivalent of about five tomatoes per day were 33 percent less likely to get sunburned than those who ate no tomatoes.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "Several excuses are always less convincing than one."—Aldous Huxley

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MAGIC MAZE

QUILTING TERMS

G	I	F	C
Z	N	X	U
Q	N	I	L
P	N	L	T
T	E	I	C
N	N	L	K
G	N	I	S
W	U	S	O
L	J	I	G
Y	X	W	U
N	L	K	J

B	A	C	K
S	J	G	E
W	A	I	G
A	E	B	Z
R	R	P	K
T	N	S	Q
H	I	H	G
C	Z	X	U
P	M	J	H
R	O	W	H
P	K	O	I
P	R	T	O
E	C	S	B
C	T	A	P
V	T	R	Y
W	V	T	R
C	S	A	S
I	M	U	O
B	A	B	F
O	O	U	H
E	G	A	V
H	C	T	A
R	P	P	S
X	L	P	S
I	R	A	Q
A	P	E	S

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Applique	Crocking	Loft	Sharps
Backstitch	Easing	On point	UFO
Basting	Fussy cut	Patchwork	Warp
Bias	Grain	Selvage	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	−		×		18
÷		+		×	
	×		+		20
+		×		−	
	÷		+		11
11		24		28	

1 2 3 4 6 6 7 8 9

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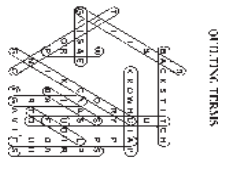
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

4	−	1	×	6	18
÷	+	9	×	2	
+	×	3	÷	9	
2	×	7	+	6	20
÷	+	9	×	8	11
11	24		28		

Yesterday's news is free fun for kids

Before you bundle up your newspapers for the recycling bin, check out these easy recycling activities and crafts. Not only do they enhance creativity, they're just plain fun when you want something to do.

For starters, at breakfast time with your kids, get your brains in gear by coming up with the many ways you can use newspapers after everyone has read his or her favorite sections. You might come up with ideas such as:

■ Wrap birthday presents with the comics section, or cut out a special comic and tuck it in someone's lunchbox for a surprise.

■ Dip strips of newspaper into liquid starch and make a papier-mache sculpture.

■ Wrap several layers around a hot casserole dish to keep the food warm when transporting it to a potluck supper.

■ Let your new Christmas puppy house-train on it.

■ Clip and use the manufacturer's coupons for this week's grocery shopping. Older kids can calculate the savings and develop an interest in cutting the family food bill.

■ Fold a kid-size newspaper hat. Make a collection of them, and your kids can pretend they are a pirate, Martian, policewoman or whatever they are interested in.

For a basic hat, fold one large rectangular newspaper page in half. At the top fold, bring the corners in to meet each other at the center of the page and crease. It makes a triangle.

Below the triangle, fold the front bottom single layer of paper up to meet the triangle. Make another fold, the same size, over the triangle.

Turn the hat over and repeat with the back page. Tape the folds in place and open the hat. It is ready to wear. For extra fun, grab some markers or paints and decorate it.

Ship ahoy!

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Good Housekeeping

Your Place: Where is the sewer-gas odor coming from?

By ALAN J. HEAVENS
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Q: I live in a double-wide mobile home. I'm getting a sewer-gas odor in the bedroom and family room, which are directly across from each other. There is nothing anywhere else in the house.

I notice this in the early morning and late evening, around midnight. I have checked the vent pipes on the roof—no problem. I've checked under the trailer, and there is no leakage.

Can you help me locate the source or tell me who to contact to find the source? The local plumber has no idea where the odor is coming from.

A: If the plumber cannot determine the source, I don't know what to tell you. Odd that it happens at those times and hours.

In my experience, sewer gas can emanate from fixtures with a dry trap or a broken seal, and a dozen other things. Sometimes what we think is a sewer-gas smell is overtreatment of municipal drinking water supplies.

Call another plumber.

■ ■ ■

Q: We moved into a twin rancher in Northeast Philadelphia, which was built in the late 1950s of brick and stone.

I'm not sure if there is insulation between the outside walls and the wallboard. In the winter, the bedrooms are about 50 to 55 degrees.

We really don't want to put holes in the walls and blow in insulation. Could the outside (side and back of the home, the brick part) be insulated and sided? And would it be cost-effective?

Besides the cold rooms, we are also having problems with damp basement walls. I was told to have the side of my home waterproofed. Would the siding fix both problems?

A: It would probably fix neither.

You might consider having an energy audit done before you side a brick and stone house. In addition, I'd call an insulation contractor, and see if one or both consultations can determine where the cold air is coming from.

Look at the property. Are there evergreens shading it all year? You could remove the trees and plant deciduous ones, which shade in the summer and allow the sun to shine during winter.

Did you check your heating system? Is it operating so inefficiently that it allows your bedrooms to drop down to the 50s during a winter night?

Most of all, putting siding on a brick house is an aesthetic issue. If you've ever driven around rowhouse neighborhoods in Philadelphia, you'll notice that aluminum siding salesmen talked a lot of people into siding their brick instead of pointing it, and covering rotting fascia board with aluminum.

Covering it did nothing to solve the problem. In fact, it likely aggravated the decay.

Seeding the future

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: Why do seed companies—those selling small amounts of seeds to backyard gardeners like me—send their catalogs so early? I started receiving them at the end of December.—Darla J., Cleveland

A: Catalogs are sent early to give you plenty of time to plan this year's garden and order your seeds, of course. While we tend to be preoccupied in January and February with shoveling snow and staying warm, February is prime time for ordering seeds. Most companies make their shipments this month.

It's also just a nice, quiet time of year for most homeowners, right after the holidays and before spring lawn care and exterior house repairs gear up. So this is a great time to sit down with your catalogs or browse the Web looking for ideas on things to grow and ways to configure your garden.

One of my favorite websites is A Way to Garden (http://awaytogarden.com), which features plenty of advice for gardeners of all levels, as well as video and pictorial instructions, podcasts and other fun. It's a good place to start if you're new to researching gardening and seeds on the Web.

Have an old, leaky garden hose you don't know what to do with? Use a section of hose as a blade guard for a hand saw.

Send your questions or tips to ask@thisisahammer.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

Chocolate Pudding

For a Valentine's treat, we tweaked this chocolate classic from our 1927 cookbook. Now with a double dose of antioxidant-packed bittersweet chocolate and cocoa, it will satisfy any sweet tooth.

1/2 cup sugar
2 cups whole milk
4 ounces bittersweet chocolate
1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa
3 tablespoons cornstarch
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
Sweetened whipped cream and chocolate shavings (optional)

1. In 3-quart saucepan, with wire whisk, combine sugar and 1 1/2 cups milk; heat on medium-high until bubbles form around edge of pan. Remove from heat and add chocolate. Let stand 1 minute, then whisk until chocolate melts.

2. Meanwhile, in medium bowl, whisk cocoa, cornstarch and remaining 1/2 cup milk until smooth. Whisk in eggs until blended. Whisking constantly, add 1/2 cup hot chocolate mixture in slow stream.

3. Heat chocolate mixture remaining in pan on medium-low. Whisking constantly, gradually add egg mixture to pan. Cook, whisking constantly, 10 minutes or until mixture becomes very thick and begins to bubble. Whisk in vanilla. Divide among 6 small serving cups.

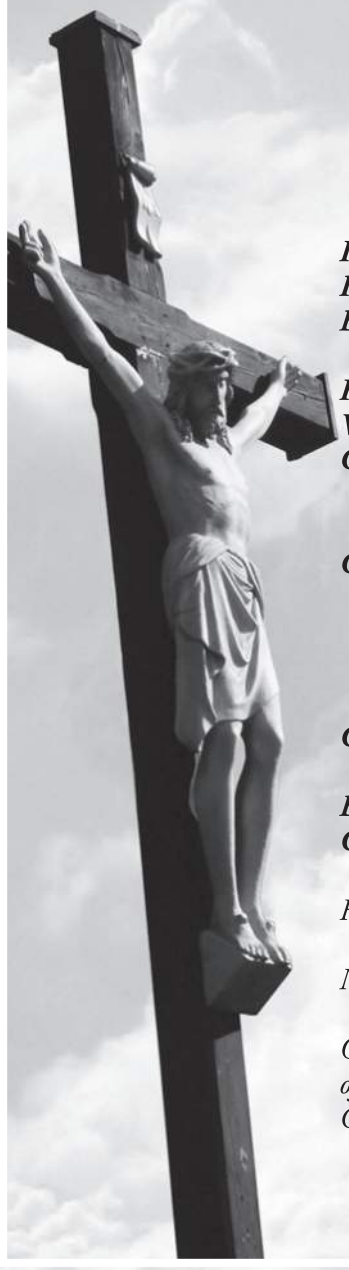
4. Refrigerate until cold, 4 hours or up to 2 days. Top with whipped cream and shaved chocolate. Makes 6 servings.

For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our website at www.goodhousekeeping.com/recipefinder/.

In loving memory of

Jose Torres Cabrera

BETTER KNOWN AS "ROY"
OCTOBER 10, 1939 – JANUARY 22, 2012



In his new life, he now joins his:

Parents: *Ana Maria Torres Cabrera and Isidro Mendiola Cabrera*
Brothers: *Ramon and Herman T. Cabrera*

He will be greatly missed by his:

Wife: *Felicidad Mallari Cabrera*
Children: *Vivian C. Rutor (Domingo Rutor), Feliciana C. Deleon Guerrero (Francisco Deleon Guerrero), Steven K. Cabrera (Dolores Cabrera), Cyndel M. Cabrera (Joseph Manglona, Jr.), and Witzel M. Cabrera*
Grandchildren: *Paulina C. Rutor (Charlson Rutor), Kumiko C. Jalova (Darwin Jalova), Jake K. Cabrera(Abby Cabrera), Tracey K. Cabrera (Anthony Cruz), Jessica K. Cabrera (Anthony Aquininigoc, Jr), Cassandra C. Deleon Guerrero, John Anthony C. Deleon Guerrero, Jake Vincent Cabrera, Stephanie R. Cabrera, Steve R. Cabrera, Shaina Darlene G. Cabrera, Kenneth Cruz, Jordan Cruz, Draven Sean C. Manglona, Cailee Felicia C. Manglona*
Great Grandchildren: *Yasmine Lauraine, Alathea Veenique, Charlson Jr., Christopher Zwarteveen, Drake Justin, Thonica Elisicana, Anthony II, Tre'ani Wininciana, Zachary Jeremiah, Za'ana Analiese*
Brothers: *Jesus T. Cabrera (Christina King), Fracisco T. Cabrera, and Juan T. Cabrera (Agnes Pangelinan)*
Godsons: *Ben King and Donicio Reyes*

He will also be missed by numerous nephews, nieces, cousins, and godchildren.

Nightly Rosay is being held at 8:00 pm at San Jose Church on Tinian and 8:00 pm at the Tinian Guest House on Saipan.

On Monday, January 30, 2012 at 08:00 am, his remains will be escorted from Tinian Health Center to San Jose Church. Mass of Christian burial will be at 10:00 am. Intermittent will follow at San Jose Cemetery. Lunch will be served at the San Jose Church.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Ginen I Familia

Life & Style

Royal Ballet star's resignation shocks dance world

By JILL LAWLESS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON (AP)—What made the ballet dancer jump?

The dance world is spinning after one of ballet's brightest stars walked away from Britain's prestigious Royal Ballet without explanation, days before he was due to take the lead in a new production.

Ukrainian dancer Sergei Polunin announced this week that he is quitting immediately. He had been due to open as Oberon in "The Dream" next week.

The 21-year-old studied dance in Kiev before attending the Royal Ballet School in London from the age of 13.

He has thrilled audiences since he became the company's youngest-ever male principal dancer at the age of 19. His poise, muscularity and gravity-defying leaps have brought comparisons with the young Rudolf Nureyev and Mikhail Baryshnikov.

Royal Ballet director Monica Mason said Polunin's resignation had "come as a huge shock."

"Sergei is a wonderful dancer and I have enjoyed watching him tremendously, both on stage and in the studio, over the past few years," she said in a statement. "I wish him every success in the future."

Ballet websites swirled with speculation about the motive for Polunin's sudden departure. Some suggested the dancer—who co-owns a London tattoo parlor—might have grown frustrated with the strict discipline of the ballet life.

In an interview last year, he referred to the pressure he felt to succeed.

"I would have liked to behave badly, to play football. I loved sport," he told The Guardian. "But all my family were working for me to succeed. My mother had moved to Kiev to be with me. There was no chance of me failing."

Others speculated Polunin might have been poached by a rival company. His Twitter biography on Thursday read "principal dancer of ?"

Emilia Spitz, of dance blog TheBalletBag, said that if Polunin had been offered a more tempting contract, no company had yet come forward to admit it.

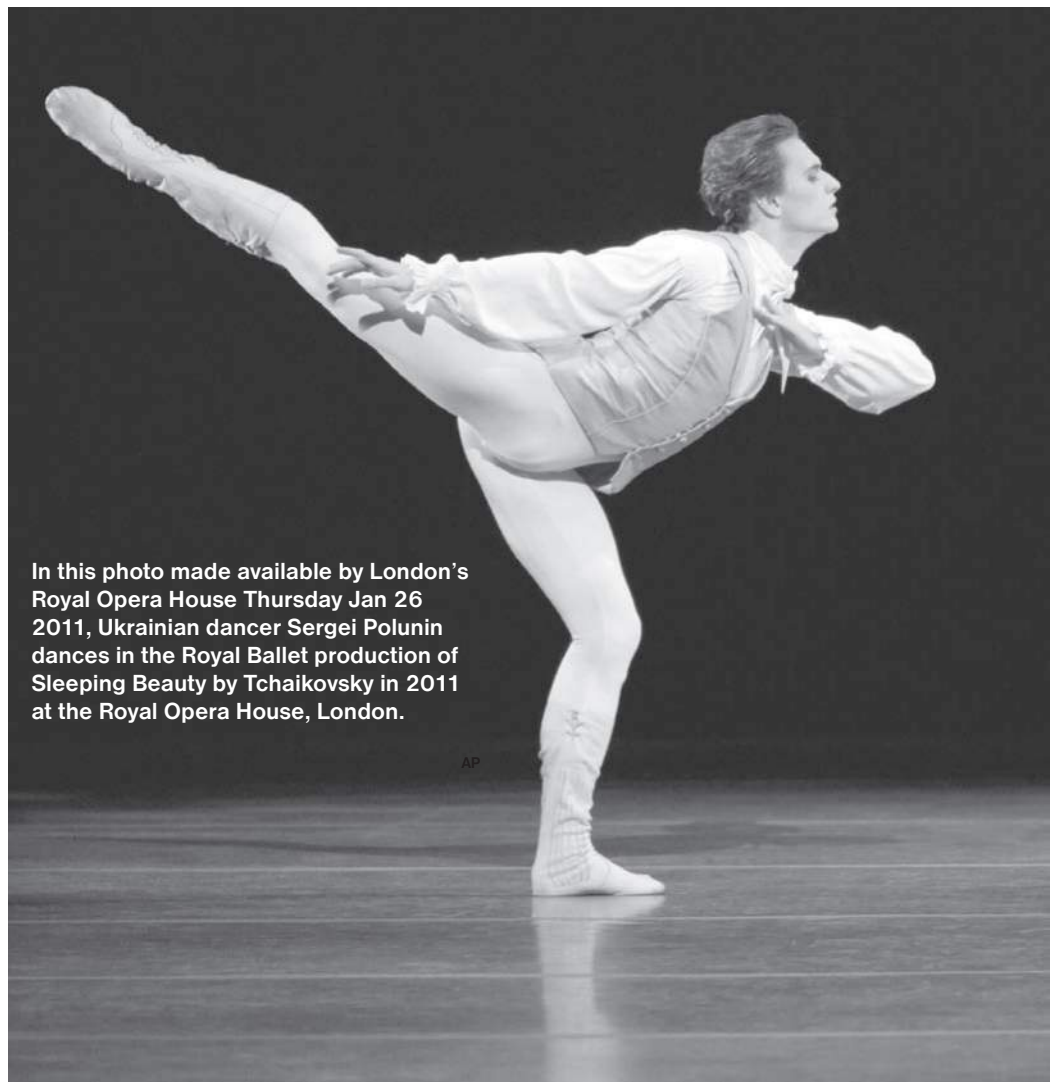
Spitz said Polunin might be symptomatic of a growing trend for dancers to seek more control over their careers than allowed by the hierarchies of established classical companies.

"These young people are evolving in that they are really taking control of their careers," she said. "It's a case of ballet contracts becoming a bit more like football contracts."

And Tony Hall, chief executive of the Royal Opera House—home of the Royal Ballet—appeared to leave the door open to a return.

"I think we've just got to support him—he deserves that—through his thinking at the moment about his life," Hall told Channel 4 News. "The pressures on him are of course enormous."

Attempts to reach Polunin at the tattoo parlor were unsuccessful.



In this photo made available by London's Royal Opera House Thursday Jan 26 2011, Ukrainian dancer Sergei Polunin dances in the Royal Ballet production of Sleeping Beauty by Tchaikovsky in 2011 at the Royal Opera House, London.

AP

Dust off the gloves: Snow White rivalry heats up

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hollywood's Snow White rivalry is heating up.

Movie studio Relativity Media on Thursday pushed back the release of its lighthearted fairy tale starring Julia Roberts, "Mirror Mirror," by two weeks to March 30. That cuts the time between it and Universal Picture's pulsating action movie, "Snow White and the Huntsman," to nine weeks instead of 11.

Relativity insists its PG-rated version of the Brothers Grimm story is a family comedy while Comcast Corp.'s Universal is marketing "Huntsman" as a gritty medieval thriller featuring a plate-armor-wearing Kristen Stewart and ax-wielding Chris Hemsworth.

AP

In this image released by Universal Pictures, Lily Collins portrays Snow White in Relativity Media's "Mirror Mirror."

Both studios are betting that the audiences won't overlap. After Relativity cut the gap, Universal did not immediately change its planned June 1 release.

Most movies make the majority of their ticket sales in the first few weeks after they debut. Still, Hollywood is betting the quick turnaround won't turn off people who might want to see both movies.

Relativity said the date change puts "Mirror Mirror" within a week of the potentially lucrative Easter weekend. The studio also said the change made sense given a recent reshuffling of other movies, such as "The Raven," which will now come out on April 27 instead of March 9.

Another theory is that Relativity is jumping out of the way of "21 Jump Street," a comedy starring Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum. That movie comes out on the same weekend "Mirror Mirror" had planned on.

Early positive reaction from bloggers and journalists has encouraged Sony Corp.'s Columbia Pictures to market "21" aggressively, and Relativity might not have wanted to risk coming second at the box office that weekend.

In the past, back-to-back releases of similarly themed movies haven't harmed their appeal. In the most recent example, "Deep Impact" and "Armageddon" each sold well more than $300 million in box-office tickets worldwide despite coming out less than two months apart in 1998. Both movies featured space objects that threatened to destroy Earth.

CELEBRITY EXTRA

By CINDY ELAVSKY
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: I got completely hooked on HBO's "Game of Thrones," and I can't wait until it returns for its second season. Would you know when that might be?—Brad F., via e-mail

A: Well, Brad, I just happen to have that little nugget of info—and I am willing to share. The next season of the medieval-fantasy series begins (no fooling) April 1 at 9 p.m., and like the first season, the second season will be 10 episodes long. And Lena Headey (who plays Ceresei) tells us that season two will bring even more drama (Is that possible?). The show also stars Peter Dinklage as Tyrion, Emilia Clarke as Daenerys, Nikolai Coster-Waldau as Jaime, Kit Harington as Jon and Michelle Fairley as Catelyn.

■ ■ ■

Q: I'm confused: First I heard Marg Helgenberger is leaving "CSI" for good, then I heard she's not, and now I hear she is again. Can you clear this up for me?—Constance D., Newport, Conn.

A: I'll try. Marg, who left the top-rated CBS crime drama at the end of January, is pretty much gone—as a regular castmember. However, her character's future has been left open so Marg can return for a guest appearance, if she wishes. Marg assures her fans that they haven't seen the last of Catherine Willows: "That was one of the reasons why it was a little easier for me to leave the show, because the producers said to me practically every day that the door is wide open. If I'm available and I'm up for it, you betcha."

Julianne Moore as Sarah Palin

■ ■ ■

Q: I remember seeing pictures of Julianne Moore in some entertainment magazines dressed up as Sarah Palin. Was that for a movie? If so, when will it be out? I'd love to see it.—Margaret W., via e-mail

A: Julianne does indeed star as the 2008 vice-presidential hopeful in the HBO movie "Game Change," which is based on the 2010 book of the same name. The movie premieres on Saturday, March 10, and also stars Ed Harris as Sen. John McCain and Woody Harrelson as campaign chair Steve Schmidt, along with Peter MacNicol, Sarah Paulson and Ron Livingston. The movie will mainly track the actions of the Republican Party during the 2008 elections, while the book devotes equal time to both Republicans and Democrats.

■ ■ ■

Q: I am dying to find out who killed Rosie Larson! When will "The Killing" return?—Darla A., Portland, Ore.

A: Hang in there just a few more months, Darla! Sunday, April 1 marks the return of the suspense drama to AMC with a two-hour premiere starting at 8/7c. The following week, the series returns to its normal timeslot of 9/8c. If you need to catch up or want to refresh your memory, you can see the entire 13-episode first season On Demand starting Monday, March 5.

Write to Cindy at King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475; or e-mail her at letters@cindyelavsky.com.

Sajak: Vanna and I drank between 'Wheel' tapings

In this Sept. 29, 2007 file photo, Co-host Vanna White and host Pat Sajak make an appearance at Radio City Music Hall for a taping of celebrity week on "Wheel of Fortune" in New York. AP

NEWYORK (AP)—The "Wheel of Fortune" wasn't the only thing spinning for Pat Sajak and Vanna White back in the day.

Sajak said in an interview on ESPN2 this week that the longtime game show team would occasionally walk over to a restaurant for "two or three or six" margaritas during a break in taping early "Wheel of Fortune" shows in California. Sajak has hosted the show since 1981; White joined him a year later.

Sajak recalled the margarita stops after answering "yes" to a question about whether he had ever hosted the show "a little bit drunk."

Although he joked that he had "trouble recognizing the alphabet" for shows taped after the drinks, no one ever said anything to them.

Now that he's older, Sajak said he couldn't do that anymore.

Pitt to attend New Orleans homebuilding group gala

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Talk show host Ellen Degeneres and "American Idol" judge Randy Jackson are hosting a star-studded gala in New Orleans to benefit Brad Pitt's Make It Right home rebuilding effort.

Pitt will attend the $1,000-per-person gala on March 10 called "A Night to Make It Right," which will include performances by singers Sheryl Crow, Rihanna, Seal and Dr. John, said foundation spokeswoman Taylor Royle.

Pitt launched Make It Right in 2007 to help Lower 9th Ward residents who lost their homes during Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The Lower 9th Ward was one of the hardest-hit neighborhoods when Katrina caused levees to fail, inundating roughly 80 percent of the city with floodwater.

Pitt worked with architects to come up with designs for stronger, safer and more energy-efficient houses than the ones residents lost. So far 75 homes have been built, six more are under construction and construction is set to begin on roughly eight others in coming months.

"Our goal is 150 houses, and this fundraiser is going to help us reach that goal," said Royle, noting that all proceeds will benefit Make It Right.

Royle said it has taken more time and money than the foundation originally thought to build 150 homes. Getting in touch with families, making decisions about their homes, getting finances in order and clearing paperwork takes months, she said.

"It's been a long road to get these families home," Royle said. "But we're happy with our progress, and we're looking forward to celebrating the progress we've made."

Royle said a video of Make It Right's work over the past four years will be presented at the gala. A four-course dinner organized by chef John Besh will include courses by chefs Emeril Lagasse and Giada de Laurentiis.

Degeneres, a New Orleans native, has already donated more than $2 million to Make It Right.

"She's been one of our biggest supporters," Royle said.

Jackson, a Baton Rouge native, was quick to offer his participation in the event, Royle said.

Other celebrities serving on the event's host committee who may also be attending include actors Josh Brolin, Sean Penn and Kevin Spacey and director Spike Lee.

The gala will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in New Orleans. Comedian Aziz Ansari will host an after party. Tickets for that event start at $150.

Rihanna to UK fashion newbies: Dress me up

LONDON (AP)—Rihanna has found a unique way of getting some new stage outfits.

The musical superstar from Barbados will be hunting for undiscovered design talent in Britain on a new TV show—as yet unnamed—in which she will be the executive producer and the star.

Sky Living HD announced Thursday it has commissioned media company Twenty Twenty to make the series and say Rihanna will be working mainly behind the scenes. Hosting duties will go to another pop name, Nicola Roberts from the U.K. group Girls Aloud.

Together they will challenge fashion newcomers to create stage gear for musicians and celebrities—with the final task to dress Rihanna for her July 8 performance at the Wireless music festival in London's Hyde Park.

Sundance fest embraces hip-hop on stage and screen

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—Hip-hop is making itself heard—and seen—at the Sundance Film Festival.

In addition to performances by rappers Drake, Common, Nas, Lil Jon and Chuck D, the festival includes documentary and narrative films about hip-hop culture.

Ice-T's documentary, "Something From Nothing: The Art of Rap," premiered at the festival. It stars artists such as Run-DMC, Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg, Ice Cube, Mos Def and Eminem.

Luther Campbell of 2 Live Crew fame appears in a short film called "The Life and Freaky Times of Uncle Luke."

"Filly Brown," a contender in the U.S. dramatic competition, tells a story of a rising Hispanic hip-hop artist in Los Angeles and the challenges she faces on the way to fame.

Sundance continues through Sunday in Park City, Utah

AP

Ice-T, from the film "The Art of Rap," pose for a portrait during the 2012 Sundance Film Festival on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012, in Park City, Utah.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

NY art dealer charged in $4M fraud

NEWYORK (AP)—A New York art dealer has been charged in a $4 million fraud for selling works by Picasso, Matisse and others without informing the owner or giving him the proceeds. The charges in a criminal complaint in Manhattan accuse Robert Scott Cook of selling 16 works of art without the owner/collector's knowledge. The artwork included watercolors, drawings, photographs, and other works by artists including Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse and Pierre-Auguste Renoir, among others. Lawyers in court papers filed in a civil case against him say Cook is likely living abroad because he travels frequently around the world. A lawyer for the 62-year-old Cook did not immediately return a phone message for comment. From 2005 to 2011, Cook owned Cook Fine Art, LLC.

Merle Haggard returns to Calif. home to recuperate

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Country music legend Merle Haggard has returned home to northern California to recuperate from multiple illnesses. Haggard had been hospitalized in Macon, Ga., for about a week with double pneumonia. While there, doctors discovered three stomach ulcers and eight polyps in his colon. At one point, the 74-year-old checked himself out of the hospital to return to Redding, Calif., by tour bus. But he returned a few hours later after deciding the trip would be too taxing. The "Okie from Muskogee" singer was diagnosed with lung cancer a few years ago, but recovered after part of his lung was removed. It's unclear how Haggard's recent health issues will affect his touring schedule. His website shows him playing next on Feb. 28 in Tucson, Ariz.

Sister hidden in the wings must find her own stage

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I'm a freshman in high school and my sister is a junior. She plays violin in our school orchestra (first chair), gets straight A's in all her classes (honors and AP courses) and is gorgeous and popular. I, on the other hand, am socially awkward, spend most of my time with my nose jammed in a book, barely get A's in my few honors courses and play in the school band.

I have a few close friends, but most of them aren't in any of my classes so I eat lunch alone. I don't want to be popular; I just want to stop being jealous of my sister. How can I do that when anything I do that's good is overshadowed by all her accomplishments?

LIVING IN THE SHADOWS IN ILLINOIS

DEAR LIVING IN THE SHADOWS: It would be helpful if you would stop comparing yourself to your sister. You are an individual, and individuals do not all blossom at the same rate. You have accomplishments you should be proud of. You play an instrument, you are in some honors courses, and you are a READER. The time you spend with your "nose jammed in a book" will pay off later because you are developing your mind.

I recommend you find an area of interest that your sister hasn't tried, and develop that. It's a way to excel at something in your own right, and make some new acquaintances so you aren't lost in the glare of your sister's spotlight.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 35-year-old woman. My boyfriend of two years and I are having issues because of his irresponsibility. He's a great guy with a heart of gold, but he can't keep a job. He has quit the same job three times within the last 12 months and now is fully unemployed.

I have been confiding in a female friend who happens to be a lesbian. Her understanding and compassion have brought us a lot closer than I could have ever imagined. Honestly, I am not attracted to women, but there's something going on in my heart for her. She knows how I feel and has expressed interest in taking our friendship to a different level, but I'm not sure I can do it. Homosexuality is not accepted in my family, and I wouldn't be comfortable about being open in public with another woman. Can you help me decide what to do?

ANONYMOUS IN ALABAMA

DEAR ANONYMOUS: You may not be attracted to women, but you appear to be attracted to this one. Your disappointment in your boyfriend's inability to hold a job is not the issue here. The issue is your fear of your family's disapproval and your embarrassment about being open about your attraction if it turns out to be more powerful than you want to admit. Whether you ignore your feelings or follow through on them, you will pay a price. My advice is be true to yourself, but make sure you think long and hard before acting.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am recently divorced and have chosen to go back to using my maiden name. The divorce was a long time in coming and, frankly, I'm happy about it. What's bothering me is the reaction I get from most people about my name change. Many of them assume that a name change equals marriage—so I am often congratulated. What lighthearted response can I give to those folks to set them straight?

UNATTACHED IN ARLINGTON, TEXAS

DEAR UNATTACHED: Say, "Thank you for the congratulations, but this is the name I was born with."

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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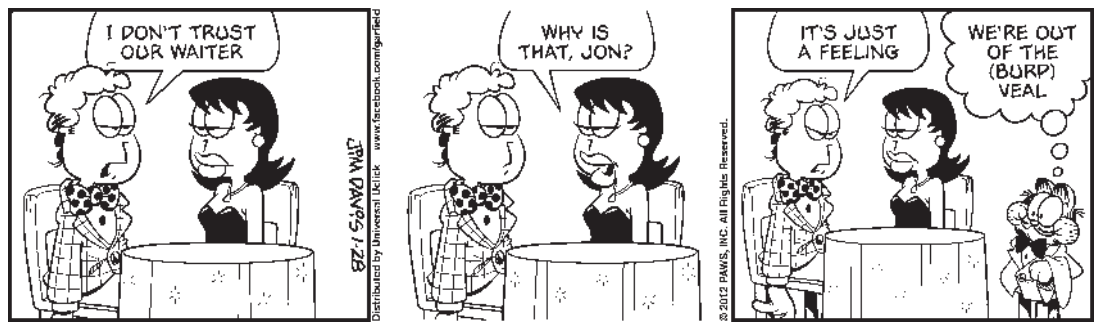
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

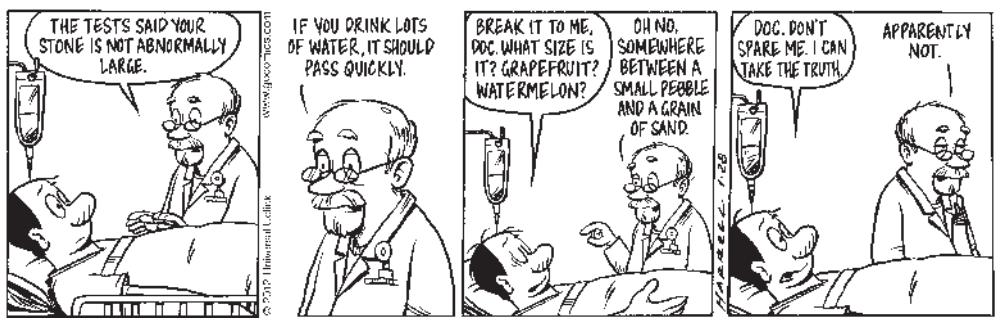
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



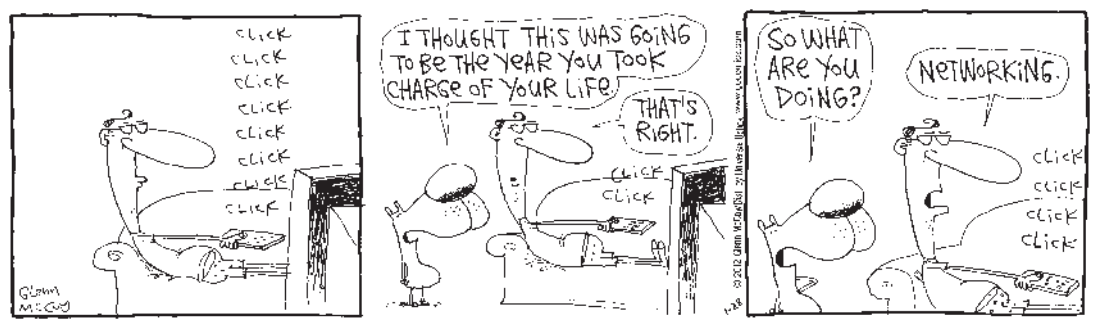
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


THE TESTS SAID YOUR STONE IS NOT ABNORMALLY LARGE.
IF YOU DRINK LOTS OF WATER, IT SHOULD PASS QUICKLY.
BREAK IT TO ME, DOC. WHAT SIZE IS IT? GRAPEFRUIT? WATERMELON?
OH NO. SOMEWHERE BETWEEN A SMALL PEBBLE AND A GRAIN OF SAND.
DOC. DON'T SPARE ME. I CAN TAKE THE TRUTH.
APPARENTLY NOT.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Bugs Bunny's voice
6 Elevator stop
11 Iranian woman's garb
12 Very many
14 Football conference?
15 Hold close
16 "— be a pleasure"
17 Madagascar beast
19 Sinful
20 Deposited
22 — de deux
23 Speck
24 Unmoving
26 Traffic jam, often
28 Deviate off course
30 Pair with an air
31 Enthusiast
35 Jelly flavor
39 On in years
40 Rocky peak
42 Mosque bigwig
43 Sturgeon product
44 Open, as a jacket
46 Anger
47 Mix-up
49 — jumper (light plane)
51 Oktoberfest souvenirs
52 It gets the lead out
53 Concepts
54 Smart, attire-wise

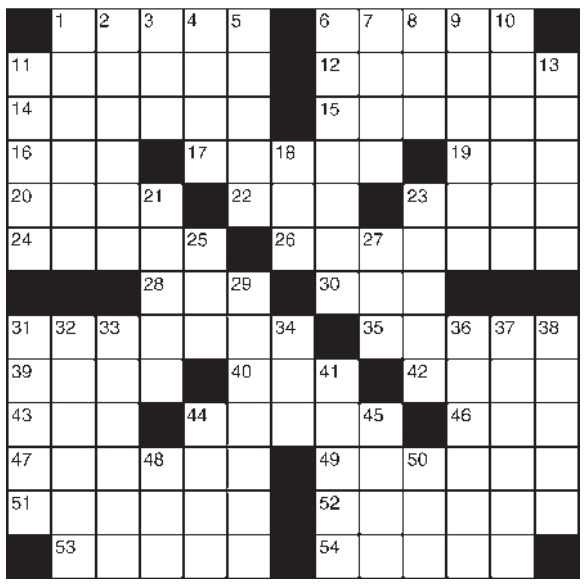
DOWN

1 Himalayan country
2 Young Scottish chap
3 Toss in
4 Former Steelers coach Chuck
5 Hardly Mr. Right
6 Centered (on)
7 Sullen look
8 Peculiar
9 One of the inner circle
10 Tell
11 Some like it hot
13 Passover feast
18 Frenzied
21 Wood nymph
23 New Zealand native
25 Body art, briefly
27 Drag along
29 "— for the Prosecution"
31 Granges
32 Tropical rodent
33 Had to have
34 Family relation, for short
36 In the thick of
37 Discussion
38 Eastern bigwig
41 Mature
44 Radius' neighbor
45 Aqua —
48 Gaming cube
50 Not "dis"

Solution time: 27 mins.

B	A	C	O	N	■	A	B	A	■	I	L	L
A	L	O	H	A	■	R	O	T	■	M	A	O
M	I	M	I	C	■	C	O	M	M	A	N	D
■	■	M	O	R	P	H	S	■	O	G	E	E
F	L	U	■	E	R	E	■	D	R	E	S	S
L	E	N	S	■	O	R	B	I	T	■	■	■
Y	I	E	L	D	S	■	R	E	A	C	T	S
■	■	■	A	R	E	N	A	■	L	O	O	P
M	A	D	L	Y	■	E	S	P	■	M	O	A
O	L	I	O	■	S	C	H	I	S	M	■	■
C	O	M	M	E	N	T	■	C	H	O	S	E
H	U	E	■	T	I	A	■	A	U	D	E	N
A	D	S	■	A	P	R	■	S	T	E	E	D

Yesterday's answer 1-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ariel Winter, 14; Elijah Wood, 31; Sarah McLachlan, 44; Alan Alda, 76.

Happy Birthday: What you have learned in the past, coupled with what you know now, will enable you to come to a decision regarding your future. A unique idea executed in a visually pleasing manner will catch the eye of a potential partner who can bring something valuable to the table. Your numbers are 2, 9, 16, 24, 32, 37, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't get worked up over nothing. Use your energy wisely and get things done that make you feel good about who you are and what you contribute. Engaging in a project with others can be exhilarating, as well as financially rewarding. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Take note of anyone who is constantly changing or doesn't appear to know what's going on. You are best to put distance between you and those who are likely to be difficult or incompetent. Uncertainty is the enemy, so be precise. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Surprise everyone with the generous offering of your time and services, and you will attract the attention of someone who can offer you greater security. Inventing a way to offer your skills to a wider variety of people will pay off. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Uncertainty regarding your position or status is apparent. Stay on top by being prepared to adapt to maintain your status quo. Consider a creative skill you have that can bring in additional income. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Get out and about. It's important to interact with peers and those who have something to offer you in return. A change of scenery will do you good emotionally. Don't allow anyone to push you into a decision that might jeopardize your income. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Put time, effort and cash into your home and family. Fixing up your digs will lead to greater comfort. An opportunity to learn something valuable is apparent if you attend a function that allows you to network within your chosen field. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Keep the ball rolling. Get involved in whatever allows you to push a dream closer to reality. Interacting with others will bring offers that will help you reach your goals. An unexpected change will be a blessing in disguise. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You deserve a break. Spend time with friends or your lover and you will find it rejuvenating as well as informative regarding your current financial situation and what options you have to increase your assets. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Changes at home will improve your relationship with family. Make a point of doing something extraordinary and you will impress someone special. Don't let your health suffer because you overdo it or engage in a reckless act. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Keep things steady. Engaging in unfamiliarity will bring uncertainty and emotional turmoil. Stick close to home and refuse to give in to undeserving individuals trying to take advantage of you. Protect your assets and possessions. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): People from your past will give you something to think about. Remembering experiences will help you make the right choice now. An opportunity to change the way you earn your living must be taken. Positive change is apparent. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Focus on what you can accomplish, not what you cannot. You have to put what others do or say in perspective and concentrate more on what you feel you should be doing. Be reasonable and you will get results. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are an aggressive, unpredictable and farsighted go-getter.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	3			6	7			
		8	5	9				4
							9	
7							1	
3	5						6	2
	4							9
	7							
5				2	3	8		
			8	4			5	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	9	1	3	7	2	8	5	4
8	2	5	6	1	4	9	7	3
7	4	3	9	8	5	2	6	1
9	6	7	8	2	1	4	3	5
2	3	8	4	5	6	7	1	9
1	5	4	7	9	3	6	2	8
3	1	9	2	6	8	5	4	7
5	7	6	1	4	9	3	8	2
4	8	2	5	3	7	1	9	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/27

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HOLLANDAISE SAUCE Solution: 6 letters

T	B	R	I	C	H	C	A	Y	E	N	N	E	R	C
A	A	R	O	A	S	T	Y	T	O	O	C	E	E	H
E	C	B	E	V	E	L	S	M	I	I	D	R	T	I
H	O	R	A	T	A	A	E	S	U	N	I	O	Y	V
O	N	K	E	S	T	L	L	J	E	H	O	O	(E)	E
L	O	C	C	A	C	U	F	L	S	M	L	(S)	L	S
L	M	I	E	I	M	O	B	R	S	K	(A)	R	S	D
A	L	U	G	E	H	Y	E	U	T	(B)	A	S	R	R
N	A	Q	G	O	G	T	G	C	F	G	E	M	A	A
D	S	L	L	A	S	A	I	R	E	P	T	E	P	T
E	O	I	R	E	R	D	E	N	E	U	A	L	F	S
F	V	L	C	A	E	N	I	C	E	L	Q	L	E	U
E	I	R	P	N	C	V	I	J	U	T	I	A	E	M
C	O	S	E	H	T	L	A	S	O	A	A	S	P	W
W	A	B	H	S	T	E	A	K	H	N	S	E	H	O

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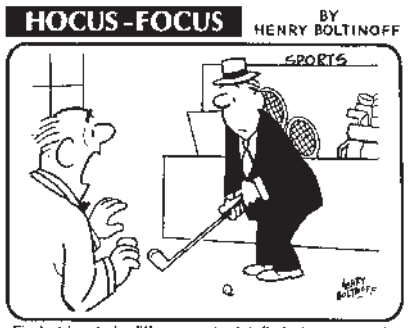
Asparagus, Bacon, Base, Beef, Benedict, Blender, Butter, Cayenne, Chives, Creamy, Dijon, Eaten, Egg, Emulsion, Fish, Flavor, French, Garlic, Garnish, Heat, Holland, Juice, Lemon, Melt, Mustard, Olive, Opaque, Pale, Parsley, Quick, Relish, Rich, Roast, Salmon, Salt, Sauce, Serve, Smell, Smooth, Steak, Tabasco, Taste, Thick, Vinegar, Worcestershire, Yolk

Yesterday's Answer: Techniques

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Tennis racket is missing. 2. Man has no hat. 3. Bat is resting behind counter. 4. Tie is missing. 5. Golf bag is different. 6. Window has no frame.

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Wishing Well®

6	2	8	2	3	7	4	5	8	6	5	4	3
H	S	U	M	S	B	V	E	L	A	V	I	P
6	2	5	6	8	4	8	3	7	8	5	7	3
S	I	E	T	T	C	I	R	E	M	N	T	E
7	4	7	4	3	8	4	7	4	2	7	6	5
R	T	U	O	A	A	R	S	Y	L	T	E	T
8	7	8	6	8	3	8	3	4	3	4	2	7
T	I	E	N	S	D	U	L	I	O	S	E	N
2	4	6	5	7	2	6	4	8	5	8	5	3
S	A	D	F	G	F	E	C	C	U	C	L	V
5	4	8	2	8	4	6	4	6	5	4	8	4
W	H	E	O	S	I	C	E	I	E	V	S	E
6	3	5	4	2	5	6	2	6	2	6	2	6
S	E	E	D	R	K	I	Y	O	O	N	U	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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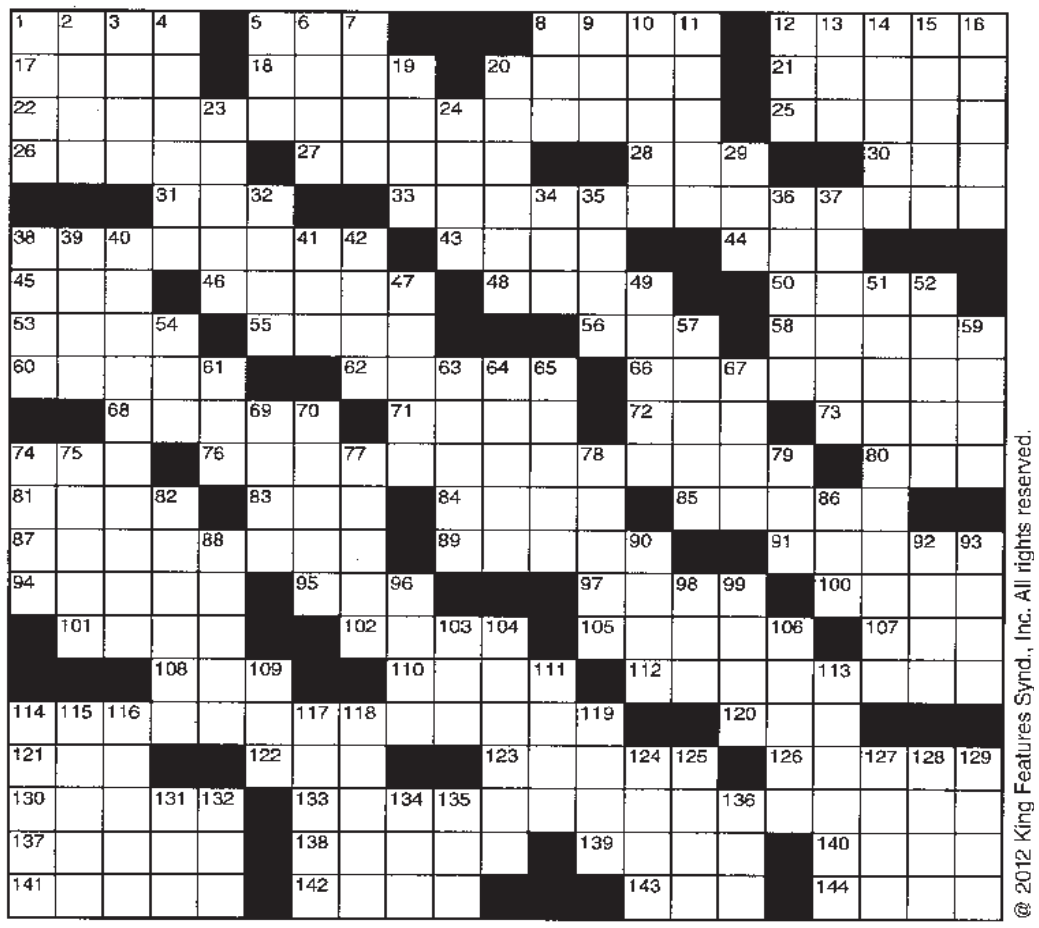
Super Crossword CD COLLECTIO

ACROSS

1 Pinza or Chaliapin
5 Basilica feature
8 Page
12 — pants
17 Relative of PDQ
18 Crude cartel
20 Comic Radner
21 It's down in the mouth
22 Connecticut senator
25 Cotonou's country
26 Swiss miss?
27 Rustic sight
28 Villainous Luthor
30 Bit
31 "Nightmare" street
33 "Pelleas et Melisande" composer
38 Intrude
43 About
44 Sky light?
45 August one
46 Watchband
48 Say "Hey!"
50 Drummer Buddy
53 Cold-war accord
55 Scrabble piece
56 Ring site?
58 Hero's horse
60 Actress Slezak
62 Stopped in one's tracks
66 Singer Elvis
68 Scandinavian
71 Handy bit of Latin
72 — Jima
73 Window part
74 "— Eyes" ('79 hit)
76 "New Look" couturier
80 Cambodia's Lon —
81 Articulated
83 Gridiron position
84 Art deco name
85 Clementi composition
87 Fit neatly
89 Philharmonic section
91 He had a gilt complex
94 Pennsylvania sect
95 Velvet finish
97 Tragic fate
100 They squeak for themselves
101 Vino center
102 Crucifix
105 Photo book
107 Trams transport it
108 Subordinate Claus?
110 Football's Aikman
112 Architect, for instance
114 "The Descent of Man" author
120 Fumble
121 Empty (of)
122 Wagner's "— fliegende Hollander"
123 Sneaks peeks
126 Carries
130 Removes the cork
133 1974 Tony-winning actress
137 "Killer Tomatoes" sound
138 Fiddled (with)
139 Screenwriter James
140 Talbot or Naldi
141 Like the kitchen sink
142 Risked a ticket
143 Scrape by, with "out"
144 Action figure

DOWN

1 Big name in Baroque
2 '68 US Open winner
3 Amritsar attire
4 Miss Muffet's nemesis
5 Word with cheese or roast
6 Homer's field
7 Bawled
8 Cover
9 "Evil Woman" rockers
10 Confuse
11 Lost luster
12 Wheel part
13 "Hi, Horace!"
14 Puniest pups
15 Inventor Howe
16 Actor Patinkin
19 Stylish
20 Bathed in butter
23 Corn holders
24 Actress Joyce
29 Makes one's mark
32 Swimmer Biondi
34 Multi-purpose vehicle
35 Lamebrain
36 Pop
37 Joins forces
38 Different
39 Around the corner
40 Covent Garden conductor
41 Dernier —
42 Grapefruit serving
47 Shimon of Israel
49 Clear
51 "The Power of Love" singer
52 Opening remark?
54 Tyson stat
57 Crockett colleague
59 TV's "My Living —"
61 Eyebrow shape
63 Aquatic mammal
64 Former African nation
65 Bring bliss
67 Santa's problem
69 Mets' milieu
70 Singer Maresca
74 Fountain order
75 Luncheonette lure
77 Gentleman of leisure?
78 "Pagliacci" soprano
79 Pirate's quaff
82 Flatt or Pearson
86 Indistinct
88 Tenor Georges
90 Auctioneer's cry
92 43,560 square feet
93 Cassandra, for one
96 Part of NB
98 UK honor
99 Ruminate
103 Legendary Bruin
104 Used a divining rod
106 High spirits
109 Nourished
111 Surprised shout
113 Terra firma
114 Misfortune
115 Hefty herbivore
116 Writer Rogers St. Johns
117 Factions
118 Sag
119 1492 vessel
124 Brink
125 Pursue
127 The Chipmunks, e.g.
128 Ferrara first family
129 Galaxy glitterer
131 Short snooze
132 Hog heaven?
134 Caustic substance
135 Rock's — Zeppelin
136 Diminutive



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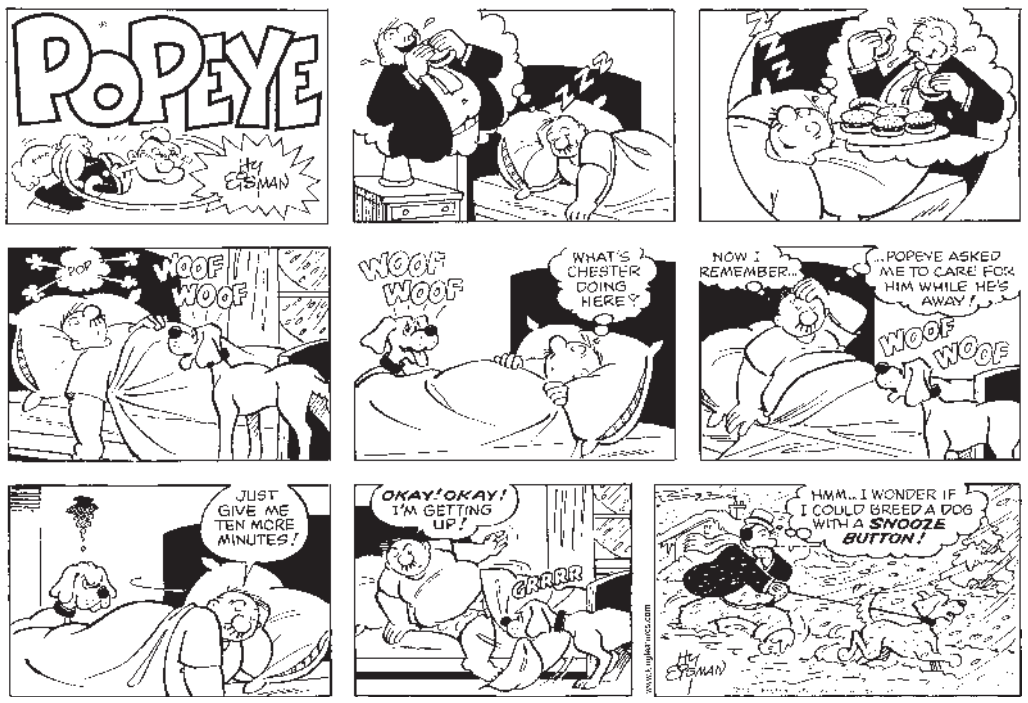
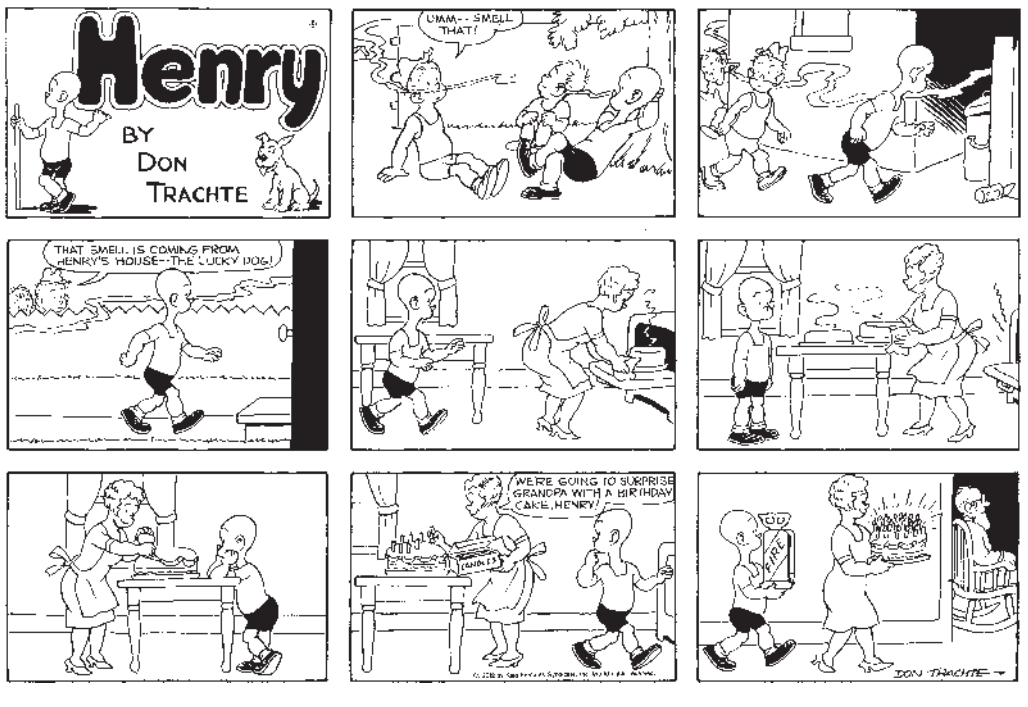


They'll Do It Every Time — by Al Scaduto

EVER HAPPEN TO YOU?
YOU'RE COLD AND DYIN' FOR A HOT DINNER.. AND YOU HAVE NEWS OF A BIG RAISE YOU JUST GOT, BUT YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT FOR A PAUSE IN WIFEY'S REAL IMPORTANT HOT NEWS OF THE DAY REPORT...
--AND THEN COUSIN HEPATICA CALLED AND SAID SHE'D BE COMING TO OUR FAMILY DINNER ON SUNDAY--WELL...I TOLD HER TO BRING AUNT EFFIE AND UNCLE ALF.. AND I TOLD HER NOT TO IGNORE HER MOTHER-IN-LAW.. AND SHE SAID.. AND THEN I SAID--AND..
Thank To S. FABER, BOSTON, MASS.
NOT ONE--BUT TWO UPMANSHIP--
MY DAD LIVED TILL HE WAS 93..
MY UNCLE ARFO IS 97 AND SWIMS EVERY DAY--
MY AUNT HEPPA IS 102 AND JOGS 8 MILES EVERY DAY..
Thank To "DEE-DEE" CALO, ROCKVILLE, MD
NEVER HAPPEN IN OUR LIFETIME-
HI--WE LIVE IN THE APARTMENT NEXT TO YOU--WE JUST WANTED TO TELL YOUR WIFE TO KEEP PRACTICING HER OPERATIC LESSONS--WE DON'T MIND HER SINGING EVEN IF IT IS VERY LATE-- WE'D APPRECIATE IT IF SHE'D SING REAL LOUD AND OFF-KEY... WE JUST LO-O-OVE IT--
OH, YES.
WOOP-P-P-- EEK-O-O-O-- YO-YO-O-O-- AWK-K-


Henry
BY DON TRACHTE
UMM-- SMELL THAT!
THAT SMELL IS COMING FROM HENRY'S HOUSE--THE LUCKY DOG!
WE'RE GOING TO SURPRISE GRANDPA WITH A BIRTHDAY CAKE, HENRY!
DON TRACHTE

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. TELEVISION: Who played Barney Fife on "The Andy Griffith Show"?
2. HISTORY: The Battle of Hastings was fought to control which country?
3. CHILDREN'S LITERATURE: What award-winning Christmas book did Chris Van Allsburg write?
4. MUSIC: By which nickname did The Doors' Jim Morrison refer to himself?
5. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What Balkan leader's real name was Josip Broz?
6. MOVIES: What shape did Hermione Granger's patronus take in the "Harry Potter" series?
7. ENTERTAINMENT: What kind of entertainer would use the "De-Manche change"?
8. LANGUAGE: What is the Hawaiian word for "quick"?
9. POETRY: Who wrote "Sonnets from the Portuguese"?
10. GEOGRAPHY: What is the largest tidal estuary in the United States?

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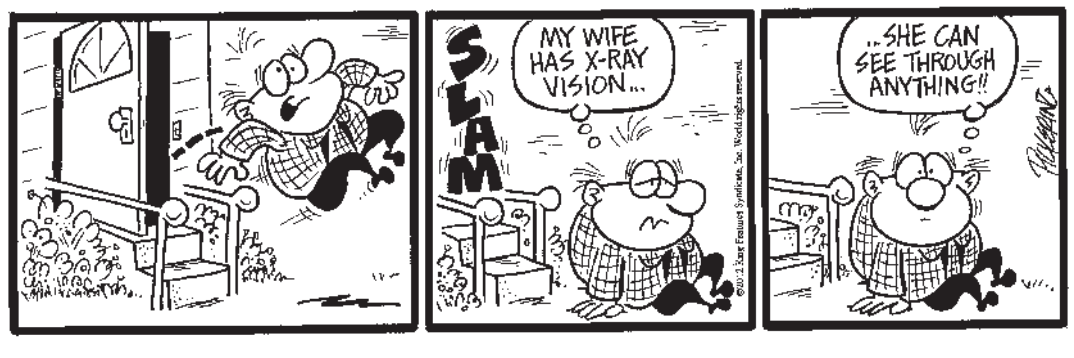
Answers

1. Don Knotts
2. England
3. "The Polar Express"
4. The Lizard King
5. Tito
6. A silver otter
7. A magician
8. Wiki
9. Elizabeth Barrett Browning
10. Chesapeake Bay

Saturday's Answers

The Spats — by Jeff Pickering



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• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- **DOMINIQUE S. PALACIOS and GLORIA S. PALACIOS,** Defendants.	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 06-0330** **SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on August 15, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot 011 G 735, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 800 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 14, dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4182, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, February 3, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 5th day of January, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Lourdes Sablan Kalen
PMB 10002 1244
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 323-1090

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of The Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For: K.I.J., M.M.I.J., and G.I.I. II, Minor Children, **by LOURDES SABLAN KALEN** Petitioners	**FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0034** **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is here by given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on February 2nd, 2012, at 9:30 a.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Honorable Judge Perry B. Inos.

Dated this 23rd day of January, 2012

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

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Looking for used cars. Year 2003 & up. 4 cylinder, Good condition. We pay cash! Pls. call 287-7676

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(1) General Manager: $3,000/mo. Bachelor's degree and at least 4 years' experience as general manager in a hotel environment is required. Korean writing and speaking fluency required. (1) Hotel Manager: $1,500/mo. College degree and at least 4 years' experience as hotel manager required. Korean and Japanese writing and speaking fluency required. Email resume to Changshin Resort Saipan Corporation at changshin@hanmisaipan.com. For inquiries, call 235-2111.

New Andhoks Chicken Inasal (BBQ Grill)

Is in need of
(1) Chef & (1) Grill Cook

Interested applicants, may call 989-5287

WANTED

(1) Barber and (1) Beautician
with 2 year experience, pleasing personality
With good moral character.

Interested applicants may call or submit resume to Genoveva's Hair Power, Inc. Tel. 234-6378 or 234-9226.

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2 Bedroom Apartment for Rent. For $200.00 / month. Koblerville, please call 288-0728.

4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, newly renovated concrete hse & 1 bedroom, at lower Asteo. It has huge yard near the ocean. Yard cleaning & trash collection is included. Please contact 287-5877. Prices are negotiable.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

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Memorial exposes anger over Paterno's treatment

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP)—The near-capacity crowd of 12,000 seemed to be just waiting for somebody to bring up the subject. Finally, when someone rose in Joe Paterno's defense to argue that he had been made a scapegoat, the audience was instantly on its feet, applauding thunderously.

Anger and resentment came spilling out at a campus memorial service Thursday for the football coach, two months after he was summarily fired by the trustees.

It was Nike founder and CEO Phil Knight who broke the dam, defending Paterno's handling of child-sex allegations that were leveled against a former coaching assistant.

"If there is a villain in this tragedy, it lies in that investigation and not in Joe Paterno's response," Knight said. Paterno's widow, Sue, was among those rising to their feet.

Later, Paterno's son Jay received a standing ovation when he declared: "Joe Paterno left this world with a clear conscience."

Capping three days of mourning on campus, the 2 1/2-hour ceremony was filled with lavish praise that probably would have embarrassed Paterno, who died Sunday of lung cancer at 85 after racking up more wins—409—than any other major-college football coach and leading his team to two national championships in 46 seasons.

One by one, Penn State football stars and others credited Paterno with building not just better athletes but better men—and women. He was saluted for his commitment to sportsmanship, loyalty, teamwork, character, academics and "winning with honor." He was called a good father, a good husband, a good neighbor, a good friend, a good teacher.

Players from each decade of Paterno's career spoke affectionately about him, saying he rode them hard but always had their best interests at heart and encouraged them to complete their educations and make something of themselves.

Though the Penn State campus has been torn with anger over the child-sex scandal and Paterno's dismissal, Jay Paterno said his father didn't hold a grudge.

"Perhaps his truest moment, his living testimony to all that he stood for, came in the last months of his life. Faced with obstacles and challenges that would have left a lesser man bitter, he showed his truest spirit and his truest self," Paterno said.

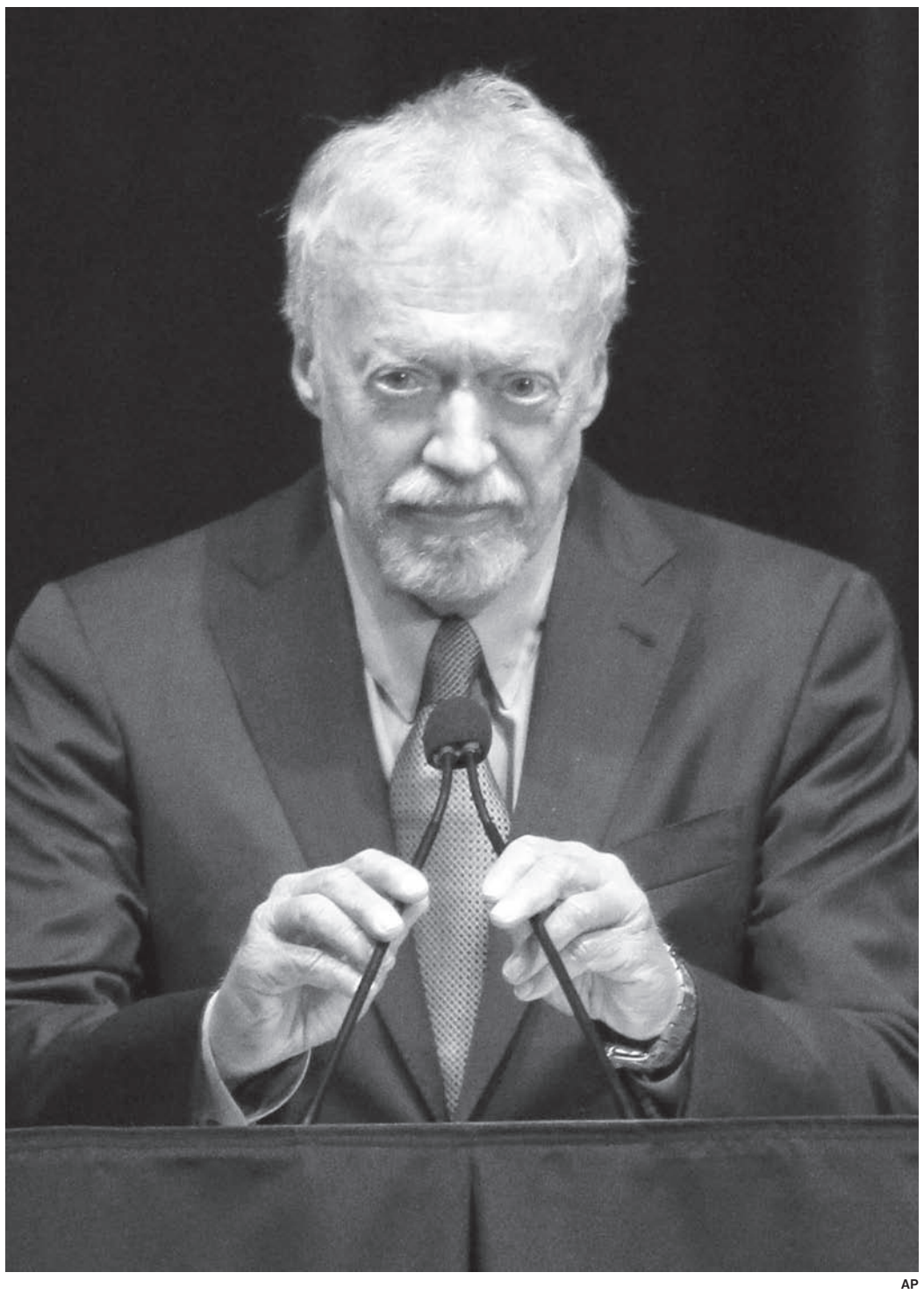
Only one member of the university administration—the dean of the college of liberal arts—and no one from the Board of Trustees spoke at the memorial, which was arranged primarily by the Paterno family.

Among the speakers were Michael Robinson, who played for Paterno from 2002 to 2005, quarterback Todd Blackledge from the 1980s and Jimmy Cefalo, a star in the 1970s. All three went on to play in the NFL.

Former NFL player Charles V. Pittman, speaking for players from the 1960s, called Paterno a lifelong influence and inspiration.

Pittman said Paterno pushed his young players hard, once bringing Pittman to tears in his sophomore year. He said he realized later that the coach was not trying to break his spirit but instead was "bit by bit building a habit of excellence."

"He was building a proud program for the school, the state and the hundreds of young men he watched over for a half-century," said Pittman, now a media executive on the board of The Associated Press.



AP

Phil Knight adjust the microphones before he speaks during a memorial service for former Penn State football coach Joe Paterno at Penn State's Bryce Jordan Center in State College, Pa. Thursday Jan. 26, 2012.

Similarly, Chris Marrone, whose playing career at Penn State was cut short by injuries, said Paterno molded him into a young man with "the strength to overcome any challenge, any adversity."

Paterno was fired Nov. 9 after he was criticized for not going to police in 2002 when he was told that a former member of his coaching staff, Jerry Sandusky, had been seen sexually assaulting a boy in the showers. Sandusky was arrested in November and is awaiting trial on charges that he molested 10 boys over a 15-year span.

As the scandal erupted, Pennsylvania's state police commissioner said Paterno may have met his legal duty but not his moral one. Penn State president Graham Spanier was also fired in the fallout.

Among those at the memorial was former athletic director Tim Curley, who is awaiting trial on charges he lied to the grand jury that investigated Sandusky.

About midway through the ceremony, Knight became the first speaker to explicitly address the scandal. He said the coach "gave full disclosure to his superiors, information that went up the chains to the head of the campus police and the president of the school. The matter was in the hands of a world-class university, and by a president with an outstanding national reputation."

Lanny J. Davis, an attorney for the board, responded after the service by saying: "All the reasons for the board's difficult and anguished decision—made unanimously, including former football players and everyone who still loves Coach Paterno and his memory—reached a decision which was heartfelt. All 32."

"The facts speak for themselves" and include the grand jury testimony, he said.

After the memorial, Marrone said Knight was his "new hero" for expressing the "pent-up frustration" many people are feeling.

"I think the response that he got is indicative of how folks feel," Marrone said.

Jay Paterno, who served under his father as quarterback coach, began his remarks by imitating his father's raspy, high-pitched voice, telling the audience, "Sit down! Sit down!"

Growing serious, Paterno described his last moments with his father. As Paterno lay dying, his son kissed him and whispered in his ear.

"Dad, you won," Jay Paterno said he told him. "You did all you could do. You've done enough. We all love you. We won. You can go home now."

Levin, Stanley opens with 62s to lead at Torrey

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Spencer Levin and Kyle Stanley knew they had to post low scores on the easier North Course at Torrey Pines to get off to a good start Thursday in the Farmers Insurance Open. It went even better than they expected.

Stanley made eagle on his final hole for a 10-under 62, his best score in two years on the PGA Tour. Levin shot 29 on the back nine and had a 62, matching his career best on tour.

"I played the pro-am on the North Course yesterday. There were just a lot of birdie opportunities out there, so I knew there was a good score—maybe not 10 (under), but I'll take it," Stanley said.

They were a shot ahead of FedEx Cup champion Bill Haas, who had a double bogey on his 15th hole and still managed a 63. The top 12 on the leaderboard played the North, which played slightly more than 3 1/2 strokes easier than the South Course, which hosted the U.S. Open four years ago.

The best score from the South was Marc Turnesa at 66.

Phil Mickelson, meanwhile, went south on the South. The three-time champion and San Diego favorite thought his game was rounding into form when he came home from the Humana Challenge. Instead, he hit into 11 bunkers, missed a 3-foot birdie putt on the final hole and signed for a 77. It was his highest score at Torrey Pines since a 78 in the third round of 2005.

"Obviously, I made some bad swings just in the wrong spot and so forth," Mickelson said. "I felt like my game was ready heading in, and I don't know what to say about the score. Because it was pathetic."

A year ago, the fairways were pinched in and the rough was unusually high on the North Course, helping to make up for the 604-yard difference between the two courses. Based on the scores, that's no longer the case.

Vijay Singh, Rod Pampling, Josh Teater and PGA Tour rookie John Huh were at 64, with Huh making three eagles. Camilo Villegas and Justin Leonard were among those at 65.

Of the 54 players who shot in the 60s, only 13 of them were on the South Course. One of them was Paul Goydos, who doesn't buy into the theory that with two vastly different courses, the tournament really doesn't start until Saturday when everyone has played both.

"Ten under is leading the tournament, and anyone who says differently is full of it," Goydos said. "I looked at the leaderboard."

He would argue that some players simply have better vibes on the different courses. What might be a big difference to one player might be much less to another.

"All I know is that I'm six shots back and I've got to deal with it," he said.

One thing that left little room for debate—the weather could not be any more gorgeous for late January along the Pacific coast, a day of endless sunshine and warm temperatures that made even the South play a little shorter.

Levin noticed only one big change in his game, and that was putting the ball in play. That made quite the difference, for hit set up short irons and plenty of birdie opportunities.

"I had some putts for birdies instead of pars, and kind of added up to a good score," Levin said.

The turning point came when Levin thought he might made bogey. He drove into the bunker on No. 7, leaving him an uphill shot to a difficult green, blocked partially by a tree.

"I was thinking I wouldn't have a shot. I was thinking it's probably going to be a bogey, and I'll go back to even (par)," Levin said. "I cut an 8-iron around and go on the right side of the green and hit a 20-footer—it probably broke 10 feet—and I made it. So it felt like at least a one-shot swing."

He followed with a birdie on the par-5 ninth, and making the turn at 3 under instead of 1 under changed everything for him.

Haas, coming off a sluggish start in Kapalua and the California desert, was at 8 under with four holes to play when he missed the green well to the right on the picturesque, downhill, par-3 sixth hole. His long pitch from the rough didn't reach the green, he chipped some 15 feet past the hole and made double bogey.

That made him upset.

He finished with two strong birdies, which eased the sting and could lead to some momentum on Friday.

"I would love to be 10 or 11 under," Haas said. "But to get over that and finish with two good birdies, I was pleased with that."

Nadal tops Federer in Australian Open semifinal

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Rafael Nadal outlasted Roger Federer 6-7 (5), 6-2, 7-6 (5), 6-4 in an Australian Open semifinal on Thursday night, the longtime rivals playing with the intensity normally displayed when meeting in a Grand Slam final.

The stars who met in eight Grand Slam finals were on the same side of the draw for the first time at a major since 2005.

Two weeks ago, Nadal injured his right knee and wasn't sure he'd be able to start the tournament. Now, he can barely believe he's in the final.

"If you tell me that two Sundays ago, I really cannot imagine," Nadal said. "For me, it's a dream to be back in a final of the Australian Open."

Nadal will have the opportunity to win another championship on Sunday night when the Spanish left-hander plays the winner of the semifinal Friday between defending champion Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray.

Earlier Thursday, Maria Sharapova overcame Petra Kvitova to advance to the women's final against Victoria Azarenka. Sharapova broke Kvitova's serve in the last game to finish off a 6-2, 3-6, 6-4 victory and the third-seeded Azarenka beat defending champion Kim Clijsters 6-4, 1-6, 6-3 to set up a Saturday night final at Rod Laver Arena that will decide the No. 1 ranking.

Nadal, who holds a 6-2 edge in Grand Slam finals against Federer, made the key service break in the ninth game of the fourth set, making an incredible cross-court forehand winner from well behind the baseline, then watching as Federer hit a backhand wide to give Nadal a 5-4 lead.

Serving for the match, Nadal moved two points away from the win when Federer sent a backhand long. He won on his second match point when Federer floated a forehand long.

At the end, Nadal smashed a ball up high in the stadium, almost clearing the roof. He then applauded along with the crowd when Federer walked off.

The 25-year-old Spaniard won the 2009 Australian title but lost in the quarterfinals in his next two trips to Melbourne Park. Federer hasn't added to his record 16 Grand Slam titles since he won the 2010 Australian Open.

"I thought Rafa played well from start to finish," Federer said. "It was a tough match physically as well. I'm disappointed, but it's only the beginning of the season. I'm feeling all right, so it's OK."

When the often enthralling play was suspended for 10 minutes late in the second set for an Australian Day fireworks display, Federer seemed to be affected most. Nadal led 5-2 at the time, and Federer lost his serve in the next game to give the Spaniard the set. In all, the Swiss dropped 11 points in a row.

"It's tough, it's not helpful, that's for sure," Federer said of the break for the fireworks. "They told us before, so it was no surprise. But I knew it was a lot of points in a row that I lost."

The capacity, 15,000-strong crowd was evenly split in its support, with the names seeming to blur after the R in rival chants.

Each time somebody called out for Rafa, it was met by a response for Roger. The cheers were just as loud for Nadal's scrambling, sometimes astonishing, passing shots as for Federer's deft winners.

With the players on serve in the second set, Nadal went so far wide on a Federer return that he was near the side wall of the arena. Incredibly, he stretched wide and returned the ball crosscourt for a winner. That set up three break points and Nadal clinched the game to take a 4-2 lead in the second set.

AP

Rafael Nadal of Spain, left, and Roger Federer of Switzerland hug at the net after Nadal won their semifinal at the Australian Open tennis championship, in Melbourne, Australia, Thursday, Jan. 26, 2012.

Federer saved a set point in the 11th game of the third set that eventually forced a tiebreaker. But Federer made three unforced errors in the tiebreaker to give Nadal a 6-1 lead, and the Spaniard eventually clinched the set on his last opportunity of five set points.

"Please win the point, that's all," Nadal recalled when asked what he was telling himself at 6-5 in the tiebreaker. "I was very, very nervous at that moment. Losing four set points in a row is tough, especially when you play the toughest in history."

Both players were asked if they bring out the best in each other.

"I don't know if it's true ... it's my assumption," Federer said. "I feel he plays really good against me. He's also got a winning record against me which maybe gives him extra confidence. I think he has a clear plan and he follows that one very well."

Nadal said that's not the case.

"I don't play my best tennis because it's Roger in front, I play my best tennis because I am ready to play my best tennis," Nadal said. "It's true I played a lot of good matches against him during my career ... but I believe that he played a few fantastic matches against me, too."

Clijsters was in the crowd, only hours after her title defense ended. And Ivan Lendl was at Rod Laver Arena for a second night, scouting opponents again as Murray's coach. So were former Australian greats Laver, Ken Rosewall and Pat Rafter.

Sharapova lost to second-ranked Kvitova in the Wimbledon final last year, her first major final since returning from an injury layoff following a shoulder operation in 2008. She has won three majors, but none since the 2008 Australian Open.

"In the third set, I felt she always had the advantage because I was always down on my serve," said Sharapova, who served five double-faults in the third set and 10 in the match. "I just told myself 'You just gotta go for it, don't let her finish off the points like she likes to.'"

Azarenka won the first semifinal after twice recovering from periods when a resurgent Clijsters seemed to have the upper hand, to secure victory in only her second appearance in a major semifinal.

"I felt like my hand is about 200 kilograms and my body is about 1,000 and everything is shaking, but that feeling when you finally win is such a relief. My God, I cannot believe it's over. I just want to cry," Azarenka said as she choked back tears, then buried her face in a towel.

Clijsters is popular in Australia, where she's widely known as "Aussie Kim" after dating Lleyton Hewitt years ago. She had most of the backing from the crowd on the national holiday in what is likely to be her last Australian Open.

Azarenka held her nerve despite the crowd and playing against a proven big-match player. Clijsters has won four majors and has defended a Grand Slam title—winning the U.S. Open in 2009 and '10. To reach the semifinals, the Belgian saved four match points despite a sprained ankle to beat French Open champion Li Na in the fourth round and beat top-ranked Caroline Wozniacki in the quarterfinals.

"I guess before you all thought I was a mental case," Azarenka said in a courtside interview. "I was just young and emotional. I'm really glad the way I fight, that's the most thing I'm really proud of. I fight for every ball."

Wozniacki will vacate top spot in next week's rankings after her quarterfinal loss, leaving either No. 3 Azarenka and No. 4 Sharapova a chance to move to the top.

Colts owner wishes Manning kept comments in-house

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The Indianapolis Colts are a long, long way from being healed.

Two days after Peyton Manning publicly complained about the dour atmosphere at team headquarters following a 2-14 season and a rash of firings, Colts owner Jim Irsay introduced his new head coach and then stunned everyone by calling his franchise player a "politician" who had decided to air dirty laundry.

"I don't think it's in the best interest to paint the horseshoe in a negative light, I really don't," Irsay told reporters, referring to the team's longtime logo. "The horseshoe always comes first, and I think one thing he's always known, because he's been around it so long, is that, you know, you keep it in the family. If you've got a problem you talk to each other, it's not about campaigning or anything like that."

The comments suggest there is a rift between Manning and Irsay, who is just six weeks from a deadline to pay the four-time league MVP a $28 million bonus or risk losing him as a free agent. And it all blew up in public on a day the team desperately wanted attention focused on Chuck Pagano, the Ravens' defensive coordinator who takes over as head coach with a host of problems to address.

The biggest question mark is Manning, the face of the franchise and the primary reason for its run of success over the past decade. He is clearly upset with the fallout of the Colts' dismal season in which he never played a down after Sept. 8 neck surgery—his third such procedure in a span of 19 months.

In the past three weeks, the Colts have fired vice chairman Bill Polian and general manager Chris Polian, coach Jim Caldwell and most of Caldwell's assistants. Irsay hired 39-year-old Ryan Grigson as the new general manager and on Wednesday chose Pagano as Caldwell's replacement.

Last week, actor Rob Lowe caused a media frenzy by writing on Twitter that Manning was about to retire. The story got so much attention that even Pagano, who was preparing for the Ravens' AFC championship game against New England, apparently took notice.

"You know, I've got a text or a call out to Rob Lowe and I haven't heard back yet, so I'm going to have to get back to you on that one," Pagano said when asked if he expected to be coaching Manning next season.

But the saga has taken an even more dramatic twist in the last 48 hours.

Manning told The Indianapolis Star that his only real conversation with Grigson, a first-time GM, had come in passing and that the vast overhaul at team headquarters had everyone "walking around on eggshells." He said it wasn't healthy for his healing, and then said that he had no idea where Irsay stood on the question of whether he was going to play again for the Colts.

Many analysts believe Manning's comments indicated that he was unhappy in Indianapolis and may be looking for a way out.

Whatever the explanation, Irsay didn't like it one bit.

"I have so much affection and appreciation for Peyton. I mean we're family. We always will be and we are," Irsay said. "He's a politician. I mean look at, when it comes to being competitive, let's just say on a scale of 1 to 10, 10 being the highest, we're both 11s, OK? So there's been plenty of eggshells scattered around this building by him with his competitive desire to win."

Clippers beat Grizzlies, top division

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles Clippers moved to the top of the NBA Pacific Division with a 98-91 win over the Memphis Grizzlies on Thursday.

Blake Griffin scored 20 points and Chris Paul added 18 points and seven assists in his second game back from injury, helping move the Clippers above their Los Angeles rival, the Lakers.

Griffin added nine rebounds and eight assists as the Clippers maintained a narrow lead throughout the final period.

Rudy Gay scored 24 points for the Grizzlies, who missed a chance to move above defending champion Dallas in the Southwest Division.

Celtics 91, Magic 83

In Orlando, Boston surged back from a 27-point deficit to overrun Orlando.

Paul Pierce had 24 points and 10 assists, and E'Twaun Moore added 16 points for the Celtics, with both scoring 10 points in the fourth quarter.

Dwight Howard led the Magic with 16 points and 16 rebounds. Orlando still had an 11-point lead entering the fourth quarter, but shot 2 of 17 in the final 12 minutes, scoring just eight points in the period.

The Celtics have won three straight for just the second time this season. It also was their fourth consecutive victory over the Magic.

Saipan splatters Guam in Marianas Shootout

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	12	6	.667	—
Boston	8	9	.471	3 1/2
New York	7	11	.389	5
New Jersey	6	13	.316	6 1/2
Toronto	6	13	.316	6 1/2

Southeast Division

Miami	13	5	.722	—
Atlanta	13	6	.684	1/2
Orlando	12	6	.667	1
Washington	3	15	.167	10
Charlotte	3	16	.158	10 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	16	4	.800	—
Indiana	12	5	.706	2 1/2
Milwaukee	7	10	.412	7 1/2
Cleveland	7	10	.412	7 1/2
Detroit	4	15	.211	11 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	12	7	.632	—
Dallas	11	8	.579	1
Memphis	10	8	.556	1 1/2
Houston	10	8	.556	1 1/2
New Orleans	3	15	.167	8 1/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	15	3	.833	—
Denver	13	5	.722	2
Utah	10	6	.625	4
Portland	11	8	.579	4 1/2
Minnesota	8	10	.444	7

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	10	6	.625	—
L.A. Lakers	11	8	.579	1/2
Phoenix	6	11	.353	4 1/2
Golden State	6	11	.353	4 1/2
Sacramento	6	13	.316	5 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Boston 91, Orlando 83
L.A. Clippers 98, Memphis 91

FARMERS INSURANCE OPEN SCORES

LA QUINTA, California (AP) — Scores Thursday from the Farmer Insurance Open, a US PGA Tour event played at the 7,698-yard, par-72 Torrey Pines South Course and the 7,094-yard, par-72 Torrey Pines North Course.

FIRST ROUND

Spencer Levin	33-29—62
Kyle Stanley	32-30—62
Bill Haas	32-31—63
Rod Pampling	31-33—64
Josh Teater	31-33—64
John Huh	32-32—64
Vijay Singh	31-33—64
Greg Chalmers	33-32—65
Justin Leonard	32-33—65
Camilo Villegas	33-32—65
Martin Flores	35-30—65
Sang-Moon Bae	33-32—65
Pat Perez	33-33—66
Dustin Johnson	32-34—66
Marc Turnesa	34-32—66
Colt Knost	34-32—66
Chris Riley	35-32—67
Marco Dawson	33-34—67
Brandt Snedeker	33-34—67
Harris English	33-34—67
Alexandre Rocha	32-35—67
Kevin Sutherland	32-35—67
Arjun Atwal	34-33—67
Cameron Tringale	33-34—67
Danny Lee	34-33—67
Paul Goydos	35-33—68
Gavin Coles	34-34—68
Rickie Fowler	35-33—68
Cameron Beckman	34-34—68
James Driscoll	33-35—68
Andres Romero	34-34—68
Tim Herron	34-34—68
Chris DiMarco	36-32—68
Robert Allenby	35-33—68
Troy Kelly	32-36—68
Bio Kim	36-32—68
Nick O'Hern	33-36—69
Brandt Jobe	33-36—69
Bud Cauley	34-35—69
Jhonattan Vegas	34-35—69
Stewart Cink	35-34—69
Michael Bradley	33-36—69
Keegan Bradley	34-35—69
Bubba Watson	33-36—69
Seung-Yul Noh	31-38—69
Ryo Ishikawa	35-34—69
Billy Hurley III	37-32—69
Ricky Barnes	34-35—69
Steve Marino	33-36—69
Tom Pernice Jr.	35-34—69
Kevin Streelman	35-34—69
Nick Watney	34-35—69
Hunter Mahan	34-35—69
Edward Loar	35-34—69
Brendon de Jonge	34-36—70
D.A. Points	34-36—70
Aaron Baddeley	35-35—70
Gary Woodland	34-36—70
Roland Thatcher	35-35—70
Robert Garrigus	36-34—70
John Rollins	34-36—70
Tom Gillis	33-37—70
Brendon Todd	33-37—70
Jonas Blixt	35-35—70
Roberto Castro	35-35—70
Kevin Stadler	36-34—70
Duffy Waldorf	33-37—70
Chris Kirk	35-35—70
Scott Piercy	33-37—70
Ben Crane	34-36—70
Tommy Biershenk	33-37—70
Kyle Thompson	34-36—70
Miguel Angel Carballo	36-34—70
Bryce Molder	36-35—71
Trevor Immelman	35-36—71
Steve Wheatcroft	37-34—71
Jamie Lovemark	37-34—71
Boo Weekley	35-36—71
Justin Rose	36-35—71
Ernie Els	35-36—71
Stuart Appleby	36-35—71
Charley Hoffman	35-36—71
Marc Leishman	37-35—72
Charlie Wi	35-37—72
Erik Compton	38-34—72
a-Jay Hwang	35-37—72
Gary Christian	36-36—72
Will Claxton	36-36—72
Nathan Green	35-37—72
Geoff Ogilvy	36-36—72
Angel Cabrera	36-36—72
Chez Reavie	35-37—72
Charles Howell III	37-35—72
Sunghoon Kang	37-35—72
J.J. Killeen	36-36—72
Kyle Reifers	35-37—72
Cody Slover	33-39—72
Richard H. Lee	35-37—72
Russell Knox	37-35—72
David Mathis	39-34—73
John Mallinger	37-36—73
Brendan Steele	35-38—73
Briny Baird	34-39—73
Jarrod Lyle	36-37—73
Kevin Kisner	36-37—73
Mark D. Anderson	35-38—73
Charlie Beljan	36-37—73
Jimmy Walker	34-39—73
Graham DeLaet	34-39—73
Ryuji Imada	36-37—73
Derek Lamely	36-37—73
Patrick Sheehan	34-39—73
Kevin Chappell	38-35—73
Stephen Gangluff	36-37—73
William McGirt	37-36—73
Steven Bowditch	35-39—74
Scott McCarron	37-37—74
Y.E. Yang	38-36—74
John Merrick	37-37—74
Scott Brown	39-35—74
Ken Duke	37-37—74
Rocco Mediate	35-39—74
Bill Lunde	36-38—74
Chris Couch	37-37—74
Matt Every	39-35—74
Jason Kokrak	36-38—74
Ted Potter, Jr.	38-36—74
Brian Harman	38-36—74
Ryan Moore	40-35—75
Mathew Goggin	38-37—75
Blake Adams	38-37—75
Matthew Giles	38-37—75
Gregory Casagranda	39-36—75
Daniel Summerhays	37-38—75
J.J. Henry	39-36—75
Vaughn Taylor	37-38—75
Greg Owen	36-39—75
Paul Imondi	35-40—75
Troy Matteson	38-38—76
Scott Dunlap	38-38—76
Anthony Kim	39-37—76
Bo Van Pelt	38-38—76
Stephen Ames	39-37—76
Garth Mulroy	38-38—76
Bobby Gates	36-40—76
J.B. Holmes	38-38—76
Michael Thompson	38-39—77
Daniel Chopra	38-39—77
Phil Mickelson	39-38—77
Billy Mayfair	40-37—77
Neal Lancaster	37-41—78
Peter Tomasulo	39-39—78
D.J. Trahan	37-41—78
David Hearn	40-38—78
Matt Bettencourt	39-39—78
Tommy Gainey	36-43—79

a-denotes amateur

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Saipan's Pam Ybanez and Jun Olita dominated Guam's Elijah Jones and Joe Jordan, 8-1, to win the 2nd Marianas Shootout Tag Team Dart Showdown held at Charley's Cabaret at Pacific Islands Club on Sunday.

The Saipan-Guam tiff concluded the Saipan Electronic Dart Association's 2011 Summer/Fall Bud Light Open League awards banquet.

Olita and Ybanez were each presented with trophies and split the $200 cash prize.

The best-of-15 event featured an array of game types.

Olita and Ybanez took an early 2-0 lead by each taking a singles cricket match. Then they went up, 4-0, after a pair of singles 501 games.

The Saipan duo then won a team random cricket contest and a game of singles Half-It before Team Guam finally avoided the shutout.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Pacific Amusement general manager Jim Gebhard, center, presents Team Saipan's Pam Ybanez, left, and Jun Olita with their trophies and cash prize after the pair won the 2nd Marianas Shootout Tag Team Dart Showdown over Team Guam last Sunday at Charley's Cabaret.

Team Saipan answered swiftly after the loss with a Team 701 victory and Olita clinched the crown in the ensuing singles cricket match.

The teams were made up of SEDA and Guam Electronic Dart Association players.

All four competitors were specially selected to represent their respective islands by finishing this past season as the Top 2 ranked players in the individual statistics.

SEDA is currently making preparations for its upcoming 2012 Winter/Spring Bud Light Open League.

The deadline to register is Feb. 4.

Then league organizers have scheduled an all-teams' meeting at 7pm on Feb. 11 at Jonny's Bar & Grill.

The upcoming season is slated to start on Feb. 13.

Contact SEDA secretary Warlee Ellama at 233-4397 for more information.

MHS1

From Page 28

cluded Thursday at the Oleai Sports Complex field.

MHS1 shut out the Kagman High School Lady Ayuyus, 4-0, in Thursday's match to stretch its unbeaten streak to three.

Kagman is tied with the Saipan Southern High School Lady Manta Rays with identical 1-1-1 win-loss-draw cards. MHS' Junior Dolphins (MHS2) is winless after three games; four teams make up the field.

MHS1 got right to work against the Lady Ayuyus on Thursday and cracked open a 2-0 lead in the first 15 minutes of the match.

MHS1's Alodia Lumasang broke the ice in the third minute off an assist by Jeraldine Castillo.

Castillo later found her way to the back of the net for a solo goal around the 15-minute mark, but KHS' defense managed to stop the bleeding until the break.

Then right after the kick off, MHS1's Liezel Tiples fired a quick hit at the start of the second half off a rebounded shot from a teammate at midfield, and the Lady Dolphins' Castillo went on to boot in another score for good measure with about five minutes left in regulation.

After one round of matches, MHS1 has netted nine goals in three games and has allowed just one goal.

SSHS holds a tally of four goals for and against its favor; KHS has scored four goals and given up five; and MHS2 has yet to fire home a strike, but has allowed 10 goals thus far in the season.

Round 2 kicks off on Tuesday at 4:30pm with MHS1 squaring off against sister team MHS2 at the Oleai field.

LOCAL

From Page 28

also encourage the parents to come out and support their kids during the season because it's really all about having fun together as a family. I know the kids will enjoy the experience so much more, knowing that their families are right their behind them. We are proud to be associated with youth baseball, and are happy to donate the needed funds, but parent involvement on the other end will make everything much more worthwhile."

"We really appreciate the relationship we have built with McDonald's over the past 11 years because without them, and all of the other sponsors, none of this would be possible," said McDonald's manager Patrick Tenorio, who was also present during Thursday's interview.

McDonald's was in a developmental stage last season and finished near the back of the pack, however they have seven returning players and have enlisted new coaches Cadiz Tenorio and Jose Villagomez.

The new coaches are current Saipan Major League players from the Fielders that graduated through the SLLBI program years ago. The new duo is younger and more energetic than last year's staff and is looking forward to getting the boys ready for an improved season. McDonald's has been practicing twice a week in San Vicente since November 2011.

Notably, James Sablan will be keeping track of statistics for the team.

Rays is comprised mostly of Koblerville residents.

The group reached the playoffs last year in its very first season together, but was eliminated in the first round. The majority of the team is returning this year and is eagerly awaiting the season opener in February.

Ken Kalen and Eric Palacios coach the group.

In addition, Pacific Amusement donated some baseball equipment to the Rays.

The team received a dozen baseball gloves, a set of throw down bases with which they can use at practice, five new baseball bats, some baseballs, a set of catcher's gear, and all players received a pair of cleats and a tote bag to hold all their stuff.

MDX

From Page 28

round-robin elimination with a 6-2 record for the No. 1 spot in Bracket B and top seeding in the playoffs, which will begin this Sunday. The Saints will face Bracket A No. 4 finisher Susupe/Armatech (5-3) at the start of the single-elimination playoffs at 3:30pm (Game 4).

The As Lito-San Vicente tiff was the lone game played last week as three other matches resulted in forfeitures. The Saints went on to cruise to their sixth win behind their jackrabbit start and balance scoring.

The Saints exploded for 34 points in the first period to take a commanding 22-point lead, 34-12. Vince Basa led the Saints' attack, dropping two triples and scoring eight, while three other teammates made at least six points apiece to bury As Lito in a big hole early.

As Lito tried to move out of trouble in the second period, but only outscored San Vicente by five, 21-16, allowing the Saints to keep their distance at the break, 50-33. New players came in for San Vicente in the second canto and they also contributed to remain on top.

In the second half, L.J. Reyes delivered the killer blows for San Vicente, as he connected on three straight treys to end the third quarter with the Saints protecting a 70-53 advantage. Luizi Reyes helped out L.J. on offense in the third, chipping in six.

Still down by 17, As Lito failed to launch a comeback in the fourth, as it had only Rainier Deleon Guerrero and James Wabinga drilling more than one field goal apiece for the team. In contrast, the Saints continued to draw points from their second stringers to end the regular season on a winning note.

Luizi Reyes top-scored for the Saints with 17, while L.J. nailed 16. Four other San Vicente players tallied in double figures, while the rest combined for 22 markers. Wabinga and Deleon Guerrero paced As Lito with 21 points apiece.

Meanwhile, other pairings in the first round of the playoffs include Chalan Kanoa/Fong's Bakery (6-2) versus Chalan Kiya/Loving Hand's (6-2) at 9am (Game 1); As Lito/Chow Queen (5-2) against Garapan/JHEM's (6-2) at 10:30am (Game 2); and San Antonio/Gene's Barber (7-1) and San Roque Morales (4-3) at 2pm (Game 3).

Only the Top 4 teams out of the nine squads in each bracket advanced to the playoffs. Then winners in playoff Games 1 and 2 will collide in the first semis game on Feb. 5 at 9am, while victors in Games 3 and 4 will duel in the other Final Four pairing at 10:30am. The one-game finals will also be played on the same day at 3:30pm.

San Vicente Saints 87 – Lu. Reyes 18, L.J. Reyes 16, Torres 12, Iglecias 10, Basa 10, Eubanks 8, Brennan 6, Cruz 4, Lizama 4.

As Lito/Chow Queen 70 – Deleon Guerrero 21, Wabinga 21, Babauta 8, Lansang 6, Sevilla 6, Sacramento 4, Capalad 2.

Scoring by quarters: 34-21, 50-33, 70-53, 87-70.

LADY

From Page 28

2-4 records. MHS2 has one win with five defeats.

The season continues at 4pm on Tuesday with SSHS scheduled to host MHS2 on the north court with KHS calling over MBA on the south end.

Then at 5pm GCA waves in MHS1 on the north side, while SIS1 hosts SIS2 on the south square.

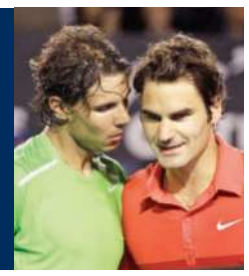
Memorial exposes anger over Paterno's treatment

Page 25

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Nadal tops Federer in Australian Open semifinal

Page 26



Lady Geckos remain unscathed in volleyball

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Defending champion Saipan International School Lady Geckos (SIS1) outlasted Marianas High School Lady Dolphins (MHS1) and remained the only undefeated team left in the eight-team varsity division of the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization girls volleyball season.

Playing last Thursday at the MHS Gymnasium, SIS1 fought off MHS1, 25-22, in the first set, but fell to the Lady Dolphins, 23-25, in the second set.

SIS then pulled it together and dominated last year's runners-up, 15-4, in the deciding third set.

Both squads were undefeated coming into the match.

The win improved SIS1's flawless record to 6-0, while MHS1 absorbed just its first loss after starting the year with a handful of wins.

In other results, Marianas Baptist Academy notched a nice breakthrough win after an impressive comeback against SIS junior varsity (SIS2).

SIS2 took the opening set, 25-14, but MBA rallied in the second match, 25-15, and slammed the door on the junior Geckos, 15-0, in the final set.

It was MBA's first actual win on the court as its first came from a forfeit by Saipan Southern High School (0-6). SIS2 fell to an even 3-3 win-loss card.

In addition, the Grace Christian Academy Lady Eagles swept the MHS juniors (MHS2) in three sets, 25-15, 25-9, and 15-3; while KHS was gifted a forfeit victory over the still absent SSHS crew.

GCA is now tied for second place with its 5-1 slate, while KHS and MBA hold identical

See LADY on Page 27

Marianas Baptist Academy's Jodel Fernandez slaps a return against Saipan International School's junior varsity in Thursday's MISO girls volleyball match at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.
WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

MHS1 *sweeps 1st round in girls soccer*

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The undefeated Marianas High School varsity Lady Dolphins (MHS1) are way out in front in the standings as the first leg of the 2012 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization double-round robin season con-

See MHS1 on Page 27

Marianas High School varsity forward Liezel Tiples, second left, waves through traffic against Kagman High School in Thursday's MISO girls soccer match at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.
WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Local sponsors show support for 2012 Little League

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

McDonald'sand Pacific Amusement this week confirmed their renewal of support to the Saipan Little League Baseball Inc.'s upcoming 2012 season.

The season is set to open on Feb. 18 at the Oleai Sports Complex.

McDonald's and Pacific Amusement are some of the very first companies to announce their return as sponsors for the program this week.

They will be the major sponsors to a pair of major division teams. The major division age group includes players ages 9 to 12 that play their games at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Ballfield.

From left, McDonald's Administrator Joe Ayuyu and Operations Manager Marcia Ayuyu formally presented McDonald's team manager Patrick Tenorio with a check to be used to cover the entrance fee for their Saipan Little League Baseball Incorporated majors division McDonlad's team on Thursday at the Middle Road McDonald's.

McDonald's will field its self-titled squad again this season, while Rays will suit up for Pacific Amusement.

The sponsors recently handed over funds to pay for the $500 entrance fee and also plan to foot the bill for their teams' uniforms once the respective coaching staffs finalize their rosters and submit the orders.

"We are very happy to be a part of the Little League program and hope that our early entry encourages other sponsors to come out and support the youth," said McDonald's Saipan president Joe Ayuyu in an interview Thursday.

Ayuyu added, "The SLLBI is a great program to keep kids out of trouble and it also enables youngsters to learn important life and team-building skills. I

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San Vicente gains top seeding in MDX playoffs

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The San Vicente Saints secured the top seeding in Bracket B of the 2011 MDX Amateur Radio Club Inter-Village Friendship League after thumping As Lito/Chow Queen, 87-70, during the final game of the regular season last Sunday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

San Vicente finished the

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